

MANUAL

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

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SIDE-TRACKED COLLECTIONS.

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THE inspection of the Annual Minutes of any Conference awakens many questions. The startling array of blanks and the number of blanks filled with only a nominal collection surprises one who remembers the obligations of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Every person who has joined the Church by profession of faith has promised to give of his means, as the Lord shall prosper him, to the support of the ministry and the various benevolent enterprises of the Methodist Episcopal Church. That vow does not seem consistent with the omission at will of one or more of these causes.

The April number of the MANUAL has many surprises. The table of statistics of Rev. J. W. Young's article, on the "Church Benevolences under the Presiding Elders," has many wonderful revelations. In these carefully prepared tables every presiding elder is tried by a standard running from zero to 6; and on this trial no presiding elder reaches the maximum.

The lowest standing is 0.17, and the highest attained is 5.37. Evidently, no entire district has done its best. The district which stands at the head of the column has ten blanks, and in some other particulars falls below perfection according to Newark standard. Only two districts in all Methodism have no blanks anywhere in their benevolent collections; and these two have filled every column for the last two years.

Let us take time to look at these carefully. The first of these is the Jersey City District of the Newark Conference, of which Rev. A. Craig, D.D., has been presiding elder for the last four years. During this time it has gained in missionary collection from \$3,000 to over \$9,000, and on other causes in proportion. No wonder that the Bishop who returned him to the pastorate at this last Conference did so with regret, and prefaced reading the appointments by saying: "His faithfulness to the connectional interests has touched and inspired one half of all Methodism."

Doubtless, the entire Church sympathizes with the Bishop's regret that his term should come to an end.

The other of these banner districts is the Salisbury District of the Wilmington Conference, of which Rev. John A. B. Wilson is presiding elder. Of this district alone could it be said for two years in succession, "Every charge gave ten dollars or more to the Church Extension Board."

The loss of two such men to the sub-episcopacy is a calamity to the entire Church. Brothers Craig and Wilson ought not to be forgotten by the Church or ministry.

Notice again in these tables that for the first time in many years the Germans do not lead the column, the New York District of the East German Conference, after several years at the head, now standing second in rank, and the Philadelphia District of the same Conference being fourth, though for years having stood second or third in alternation with the Chicago District of the Chicago German Conference, her only serious rival.

What does this mean? Are these German districts becoming Americanized, and thus losing their distinguished and long-held rank, or has the contagion of their example spread into New Jersey and Delaware? Still it must be said that in the highest twenty in Brother Young's list only nine are English, ten being German and one Swedish. Of these twenty, but three English districts lie east of Illinois, the Wyoming District of the Wyoming Conference, of which Rev. R. W. Van Schoick is presiding elder, alone being added to the two already mentioned. How this last district came to be added to the list may be inferred from the presiding elders'

circular to the pastors, which has been reproduced in the April MANUAL.

Again, take the highest twenty districts receiving no missionary aid, and that, therefore, may be fairly compared with each other. Of these, nine are from Iowa or Illinois, four of them from the Conference which furnishes the banner district of Brother Young's list. Is this an accident? Let us see. Add twenty more districts that receive no missionary aid. What have we now? Sixteen from the forty are from Iowa and Illinois, four from Upper Iowa, and five from the Conference carrying the banner, and four from Central Illinois. Of the remainder of this best forty of unaided districts, three each are from Newark, Genesee, Wilmington, and Central Pennsylvania; two each from Philadelphia, Wyoming, and New Jersey.

It is at least suggestive that, by the Newark standard, the three banner Conferences are in Iowa and Illinois, and more than half of these presiding elders no longer occupy that office.

Certain reflections naturally suggest themselves. With the exception of the Newark and Philadelphia, the Conferences thus far named are not in numbers or wealth among the first in Methodism.

These western Conferences have attained their rank, not by wealth or numbers, but by system and drill. How Upper Iowa was lifted may be learned from reading the leading article in July MANUAL, 1882, by that prince of ex-presiding elders, Rev. John W. Clinton. They all come short, however, of the Roll of Honor grade for which Brother Young now issues the call. In the near future Des Moines Conference will take this grade.

Notice, again, that with the notable exception of the New York District of the New York Conference, and the Northwest Philadelphia District of the Philadelphia Conference, no district in a large city has attained to the front rank of the first forty.

Indeed, it would be an easy though unenviable task to construct from this table a "Roll of Omissions," made up of districts averaging over 120 blanks to a district.

Counting out the districts aided by the Missionary Society,

there are thirteen districts ranging from 124 to 262 blanks ; and all belonging to only five Conferences, including every district from two Conferences, every district but one from another Conference, two districts from another, and one from another, only one of these thirteen districts lying west of Pittsburg, and all but that one being in the very heart of Methodism, the centers of its wealth or intellectual power. I purposely omit names and resort to circumlocution, because I desire not to give offense or needlessly wound the feelings of any by seemingly invidious comparisons.

Two out of three of the richest Conferences in Methodism are in this list of five, and four out of five of the principal cities of Methodism are represented in these thirteen districts. Of course, these cities necessarily have some feeble charges, and yet Dr. Craig of Jersey City has demonstrated that every charge in a city district can fill every blank. The reason for these numerous blanks cannot be a simultaneous omission by all the members to contribute to causes fairly presented to them. It is utterly unthinkable that twenty-five hundred Methodist churches should all simultaneously backslide, and every member refuse to give to all causes which the pastor was bound to present. The failure must be traced to the ministry. Under pressure, possibly, from their official members, the ministers have omitted to present some causes, or bunched the collections, and distributed them according to their own pleasure.

Let us notice two sources of disaster to the benevolent spirit and work of our Church :

POOLED COLLECTIONS.

Do such things exist in Methodism? The ministers are under obligation to separately present the several Connectional interests. The Church has appointed no pool commissioner with power to divert money from one collection to another ; nor has she authorized any one to determine the basis of division or percentage of the pool. And yet, with no such machinery authorized, and no such pooling provided for, more than half of the pastors in Methodism seem to be practicing pooling and division.

Seven parallel lines of obligation run across the path of Methodism. To give to each and all is a part of the promise of every member ; to present and protect all is a part of the duty and vows of every Methodist pastor. All readers will be profited by the wisdom and inspiration of Rev. B. T. Vincent's ringing words in the April MANUAL.

If the Church had already reached the maximum of her ability, or the aggregate of her resources, it might be necessary to divide and subdivide according to an agreed standard of pool percentages. But no one can believe that the maximum has been reached. It is hardly possible that one church in a thousand is doing its best. Only two districts in all Methodism approached their best, by permitting every member to decide for himself whether he would keep his solemn vows on the question of property ; that is, only two presiding elders in Methodism secured the presentation of all the collections in every charge. Then again, in the churches where all had each cause presented, scarcely one in twenty gave the minimum contribution of an unconverted Jew, of a tenth of his gross income. Surely the pooling of collections has not yet become an inevitable necessity.

Take another illustration. The tobacco bill of the United States is said to be (\$600,000,000) six hundred millions of dollars per annum. Every fifteenth man is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Our share of this tobacco bill would be (\$40,000,000) forty millions of dollars per annum. But a large and increasing per cent. of our members do not use tobacco at all ; so that, as a Church, we doubtless save fully twenty millions of dollars a year by our cleanness and purification from this one filthy habit. It would be fair for us to give this entire sum to the advancement of Christ's cause, to render to Christ as an offering the entire cost of this indulgence. It would surely not be asking too much to demand that we who are saved should give as much to the benevolences as the average sinner spends for tobacco. But, without insisting upon so high a standard, let us give one half what we save by giving up the use of tobacco to self, and reserve only the other half for benevolence. We shall still have ten millions left for the collections.

We can give two millions for missions, give another million to freedmen, with another million for Church Extension on our frontier plan build ten churches a day forever, and yet have six millions left. With that we can educate every orphan boy and girl in our Sunday-schools, and also give to Sunday-School Union and Tracts ten times as much as we gave last year. Until we give on the average for the benevolent collections one fourth as much as the same number of unconverted men average for tobacco, it can scarcely be seriously affirmed that we have reached the maximum of our ability. The pooling is not necessary or compulsory, but voluntary. Another source of disaster is

SIDE-TRACKED COLLECTIONS.

This species and the former are intimately related, and sometimes scarcely to be distinguished from each other. Change the figure from seven tracks to one. On this track, with proper switches and sidings, many trains may go and come. But if all go in one direction there need be but one single line, and seven or seventy may follow each other at safe intervals, as under the Black system. We may illustrate pooled collections by putting seven trains to be pulled by one locomotive. With sufficient train men to watch the brakes and on level ground the train may go on and hold together; but at the first steep grade the engine will be stalled and stand still, or the draw-bars and couplings give way, and the freight cars rush down grade to destruction. But give each train its own locomotive and a clear track, and all will go well.

Examine the General Minutes for 1885, and you will find six trains making full time with full weight. Here and there, from local causes, some of these seem to be suffering from a boycott, or to be turned upon a side track.

A fair train dispatcher, with seven trains, would give each a place upon the time-card, with certain well-defined rights between stations, avoiding collisions and side-tracking. The New York Central Railway can send hundreds of trains over its line daily by giving each train its time.

Methodism has seven great benevolent trains freighted with the welfare of the world. An experience of a hundred years

has satisfied the general managers that none of these can be side-tracked or abandoned. The side-tracking of one cannot permanently benefit the rest. Absolute protection to all is to the advantage of each.

One of these seven has suffered from a temporary side-tracking. We are not solicitous to ascertain what labor assembly ordered the boycott, we only ask that the switch be unspiked and the Church Extension train put back on the main line. A former fireman on our train used to get up steam grandly until the steam sang, "We're building two a day." He was promoted to an engineer's berth on a much larger train. He left orders, however, that we were to push the engine and make her sing, "We're building three a day." After careful examination by experts the machinery is pronounced all sound and in good order. A plucky enemy tried to kill the locomotive while she was on the side-track, but the engineer interfered, and she is now ready for the main line. Please, friends, open the switches, and let us have a fair chance in every congregation, and we will gladden the frontier and the South with "three a day" before the century ends, or within the decade.

Seriously speaking, the Church Extension cause has seriously suffered from temporarily being switched to a side-track.

The same is true of other trains on the line. There were 371 more charges in 1885 than in 1884 taking no collections for Church Extension. There were also 387 additional charges taking no collections for Freedmen's Aid Society. Meanwhile, the whole number of charges in the Church increased 116; so that each of these causes was additionally deficient by that number more. As the result of some large gifts, and of extraordinary labors by its secretaries and agents, the Freedmen's Aid Society reports an advance in amount collected, while four other causes report a decrease. One train with flying banners and garlands of flowers runs along the track and makes grand gains every-where. It has a place and time and day—the educational work represented by "Children's Day." And, as the result, the \$2,000 receipts of 1880 were increased in 1884 to \$56,181.

All hail! the Children's Day train! May it never be switched or side-tracked!

Shall all the causes receive a fair chance? What a grand series of trains we shall see, all on the track, all on time, and all advancing to save a world! The Missionary train, with every other car filled with the children; the Church Extension train, with her help for God's poor without a color-line or distinction of race—all these grand causes, and two supplementary trains of limited palace cars with the holy women of the Church in council to save their sisters at home and abroad. Unlock the switches, and give all these trains a chance!

"IF YE LOVE ME."

From the Lutheran Missionary Journal, May, 1886.

Sometimes a man says, I think I would better do so and so. Sometimes he rises higher and says, I ought to do so and so. Jesus meant that we should rise higher still and say, *I want to do it.*

He does not say, You would better keep my commandments. Neither does he say, You ought to keep them. It is true that we both would better and ought to keep them; but these are considerations that Jesus makes very little, if anything, of.

He plants his kingdom on higher ground: "If ye love me, ye *will* keep my commandments."

He neither buys obedience nor forces it. He secures the ends of both interest and law by a short cut. He substituted a motive for a restraint. Love does all that self-interest does, all that conscience does, and leaves a *wide* margin besides. "Love is dutiful in thought and deed." Jesus wants more of the play-impulse in our spiritual life. It is as if he gathered in his hand all the "oughts" and "betters" that play so large a part in our activities, and held them up and said: Now if only you will love me, I will throw these away; I will risk the issue, if only you will do this one thing. And he well could take the chances on this case. "Whosoever love goes, all the faculties troop after her." Whosoever love goes, the man goes. Love makes all things easy. "If ye love me, ye will," says Jesus; you will want to, of your own self.

Jesus took advantage of this natural law, and made love

the lever of his kingdom. "If ye love me"—the thing is done. No statute is needed to make the angels do God's will.

No work of the Church needs so much to be placed on this true ground of Christian action as its benevolent work: for it is the direct tide-flow of the Church's heart. So long as we talk of *having to* give to missions and other causes will they all be in a poor way. So soon as we begin to *want to* give to them they will look up. Jesus never meant that a Christian was to make a task of any Christian work. And it would not be a task if only we were Christians; if we were disposed to do what our name would lead a stranger to expect us to do. Would not one expect a Christian to do the things of Christ? Here is the rub: "If ye love me"—"Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you." Why do we draw back from this test? Our withdrawal from it measures the gap between our name and our heart; it measures our love. The reason why our benevolent work is such up-hill work is, that we are continually working at a mechanical disadvantage; we are pulling against our heart. Jesus did not intend that we should do this. He wants us to come up to his work a different way. If our love went out to him as it goes out to this and to that attractive thing in life, we should not have to make such a job as we do of a service for him. Does any one think that Paul preached the good news throughout the Roman world because he thought he ought to do it, or would better do it? "The love of Christ," he says, "constraineth us." The inscription beneath a picture of Jesus, "This I have done for thee, what doest thou for me?"—this is said to have set in motion Count Zinzendorf; and it suggests at once the mission-wonders the Moravians have worked, and the true motive ground of all Christian activity. Loving makes easy the service of the beloved: it makes it inevitable. *Ye will* do my work *if ye love me*.

"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited." Isa. 54. 2, 3; that is, as "laborers together with God" make all possible external provisions for enlargement, and He will transcend them on every side.

THE GENERAL BENEVOLENCES OF THE CHURCH, AND HOW BEST TO SERVE THEM.

BY REV. JOHN A. B. WILSON,

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I. THE GENERAL BENEVOLENCES.

"A CONGREGATION of faithful men in which the pure word of God is preached and the sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinances" is the Church.

The Church is God's only agency for the salvation of the world. Every man saved is reached through some other man. Salvation for humanity must be humanly conveyed. We are our brothers' keepers. The benevolences of the Church are the members of the body with which it must do the bidding of Jesus if that bidding be done at all. They mean the concentration of individual power and influence into potent aggregations for the fulfillment of her mission to all the world and to every creature. No one can follow Jesus who does not imitate him in efforts to lift the fallen, to give the Gospel to the destitute, and to distribute the blessings of grace.

The general benevolences of our Church (we have others local) are Missions, Church Extension, Freedmen's Aid, Bible, Tract, Sunday-School Union, Education—seven in number, but one in purpose, and character, and necessity. None are minor in importance; yet how many are ignorant of this the blanks and nominal sums in the General Minutes too sadly show.

This betrayal of trust is strikingly set forth by the fact that often the collections reported in open Conference are fairly served while the others are shamefully disregarded. If this is not "eye-service as men-pleasers," perhaps it is something else, and it may not be dishonest either; but if it is not, the writer would be glad if some one would furnish him with another name for it.

II. HOW BEST TO SERVE THE GENERAL BENEVOLENCES.

1. *By recognizing their unity.*

They are not separate and distinct, one major and another minor in importance. They are a UNIT in purpose, and of like value, to the extent of their several claims.

Take the missionary cause, whose position is assured in the heart of the Church as a center, and what have we? A young man has heard the voice of God in his soul and the voice of the Church in his ears summoning him to the ministry of the Gospel. His heart prompts him to enter a mission field. He offers himself to the Missionary Society, and asks aid to secure an education. He is met with the reply that the charter, laws, and ability of the Society prevent. "It can only employ you when you are already thoroughly furnished; go to the Board of Education—it is theirs to help such as you;" or, if he be black, seeking preparation for the ministry, for teaching, or for the establishment of a school among the colored people, the reference will be to the Freedmen's Aid Society. The time comes when, with the course of study required by the schools completed, he is accepted by the Missionary Society and sent to a field of labor. Here he greatly needs Bibles in the vernacular of the people; writes to the Missionary authorities for them. They, for want of authority, deny the appeal and send his application to the American Bible Society, through which his want is supplied. In spite of this grant, however, there is soon another necessity developed. He is without other Christian literature, and there is no demand for it which would make books salable. What is to be done? Another call upon the Mission Rooms for something small, cheap, to be given away, that may be easily and quickly read, is met with another refusal. The request is passed over to the Tract Society, however, and the supplies are shipped at once to the missionary. Sabbath-schools must also be established: not one, but a chain of them. He must reach the youth to make a certain lasting success. If in the United States, private dwellings, school-houses, and groves are open to his purpose; but the general poverty and indifference is against making the necessary outlay to assure success. A letter to the Mission Rooms brings another refusal, but reference to the Sunday-School Union is answered by forwarding the requisites for his work. These Sunday-schools, so aided, will grow into societies in the near future. Hundreds of churches all over the land thus had their origin, and would never have had birth but for this

begetting. So another demand is created by the present success ; every success in the Lord's work opens a new opportunity and a new demand. Now the need of a church building, to be followed by many more, is developed. Appeal to the Missionary Society, if he be in a domestic field, is again futile. Yet the success cannot be permanent without a hive for his swarm. A church building must be had ; the people in sympathy with his work as yet are few and poor. Application properly made to the Board of Church Extension brings aid sufficient to stimulate all to do their best, and so a house of worship is secured.

Now tell me which link in this chain could have been omitted without disaster to the general cause ? Which member can be amputated or maimed without suffering to all and defeat to the object of their creation and existence ? Is it not plain that they are all important ? and more, that they are of equal importance in their several places ? The two cents each per capita to Tract, Sunday-School Union, and Education, the four cents for Bible, seven for Freedmen's Aid, and eight for Church Extension are as necessary as the forty cents for Missions (only none of these amounts reach by one hundred per cent. the necessities of the case). Indeed, each is a part of a great whole ; the absence of, or crippling of, any one would break the completeness of the agency. We can serve the great missionary cause best only as we serve the others also. They are spokes in the wheel of which it is the hub. All are members of the same body, "and the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee ; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you." The cause is one, the different benevolences are but different members of the same body, "and whether one member suffer, all of the members suffer with it ; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it."

The calls from each department are becoming more urgent for larger things, and ought to be. All that we have done has been little compared with the necessities to be met and the ability of the Church to meet them. A million was needed for missions ; but the General Committee were compelled to appropriate \$20,000 beyond that amount. Church Extension needs

half a million annually—yes, a million! He was inexcusably ignorant or unwise who said it had money enough. A surplus of means? Never, until millennium glory dawns, can one of these boards, if properly conducted, have funds to spare. An aggressive administration (Heaven forbid them any other!) means proximity to the ragged edge of debt—a blood-sweat of begging until Christ shall come. The demands of a perishing world are ever greater than the supply. No man who sat with the Missionary Committee last November, through the six days and nights of agony, in the distribution of \$1,020,000, but must have seen that with \$5,000,000 they would have been still hampered for lack of means. With the pittance they hoped for, in faith of getting which they appropriated \$1,020,000, the question, from necessity, was not, What new fields can we enter? but, What ones shall we keep out of? and, What calls among the many can we refuse with least detriment to the world's evangelization?

With a half-million in the hands of Church Extension (and as much more in the other domestic societies), how much easier would it soon be to reach two or even three millions for missions than it now is to reach one? It is the business of Church Extension and other home efforts to care for the goose that lays the golden egg; to develop home resources and increase power to work. From the churches helped into existence through this agency there is a steady and ever augmenting stream of supplies flowing into the treasury of all the connectional interests.

A great extremity is upon us. God is opening more doors than the Church is willing to enter, and our only means of entry and occupancy is through the Benevolent Societies and Boards. We are being weighed in these balances of opportunity—the only limit of responsibility, and are found wanting. We must do the needed work through the benevolences. How best to promote them depends upon the boards themselves.

2. *By providing generously for the information of the people.* True, many things are not as they ought to be, yet we must take the world and the Church as we find them and operate from that basis. Almost all the information must be gratuitously furnished. We are as yet too far from

the final triumph of grace to expect people to PAY for instruction in larger giving. Be content if they will receive and practice the lessons when supplied gratis, without expecting them to pay a profit on, or even the cost of, such enlightenment. The getting for free distribution of tracts and papers, explanatory of the object, work, and claims of our boards, is more difficult than it should be, and by consequence the returns are more meager. This is an economy that saves in little things and loses in large ones. We want the best facts and arguments sown broadcast in Sunday-schools, congregations, places of business, and homes.

3. *The principal responsibility for the promotion of these benevolences rests with the pastors of the Church.*

Battles turn upon the quality of leadership. The Army of the Potomac in the hands of McClellan was distinguished for masterly retreats; with Grant at its head, for making the enemy retreat and finally surrender. The answer to the grave problem of our connectional interests is composed of 437 figures, and none but our twelve chief pastors can find it. These 437 presiding elders hold the key to the situation. What we want is not more secretaries for the boards, but more presiding elders with secretary material in them. These men make or mar this work on their districts. Our people will do any thing and every thing reasonable when thoroughly instructed and rightly guided. Our pastors of churches for the most part look to their leaders, the presiding elders, for direction, inspiration, and example. With them is the secret of success or failure. With the key so fully in their hands the writer begs to submit whether a single one in the whole Church should be appointed save after an examination of the record he has made in the pastorate as shown by the statistical tables of his Conference during the whole, or at least a long period, of his ministry. He who has not had these interests mightily upon his conscience, with elements of leadership and demonstrated ability sufficient to serve them successfully, should be forever excluded from the presiding eldership. No man can inspire others with what he does not feel himself; nor can he teach others what he does not know, or to succeed where he himself has failed. These appoint-

ments should be made not because of popularity, dignity, scholarship, talent, or pressure ; but because of habitually successful work. And what stimulus to grand endeavor would it be if such a rule of measurement were adopted !

While the benevolent test is not all, standing as it does by the side of probationers, Sunday-school advancement, church building, improvement, and debt-paying, yet it should be a principal gauge for the reason that here, more than anywhere else, can the presiding elder make himself felt.

It is possible, however, that no man can so fully realize this or be so cognizant of its possibilities as those who have filled the office. To the presiding elder is left largely the manning of the work and arranging for the same, planning for his district and conducting the agitation on the benevolent line. The young preachers and others will be glad to learn how best to do it, and their zeal will be in the ratio of their promise of usefulness to the Church, and the most efficient will be the most ready to acquire that which will add to their power for good. Indeed, the same rules should obtain in making their appointments that is commended for districts, namely, the work done and success achieved as shown by the statistics of the Conference. It is an inspiration to good men to know that they are being measured by what they do rather than by ulterior considerations.

The pastors of the churches make the sentiment of their congregations, largely, in matters of benevolence. The men who teach, talk, and give right are seldom, if ever, found wanting in success on the day of return. They should adopt the most feasible plans and thoroughly work them, utilizing every authorized force in the Church.

The presiding elder and pastors, by planning and working together, can succeed in compassing large advances, even where the territory is supposed to be entirely developed, as is demonstrated by Dr. W. A. Spencer on Dixon District, Rock River Conference, and by Drs. Craig and Brice on Jersey City and Newark Districts, Newark Conference. There are others worthy of mention, but the above are the most marked of any within the knowledge of the writer.

The same means will bring good results on the poorer and rural

districts where the presiding elders and pastors determine and work together for the maximum. The presiding elder's plan, published in the *MANUAL* of July, 1885, has been worked for three years on a district of less than average wealth, where, without a general method, the advance in the previous quadrennium was fifty-eight per cent. Now, with a general plan, the following results have been reached in the three years of the present term :

Cause.	Amount in 1883.	Amount in 1886.	Per cent. of Advance.
Missions	\$1,714	\$3,597	110.
Church Extension.....	136	614	351.
Freedmen's Aid.....	56	373	566.
Bible	54	251	364.
Tract.....	42	153	264.
Sunday-School Union.....	34	152	347.
Education.....	87	1,014	1065.
	<hr/> \$2,123	<hr/> \$6,154	<hr/> 190.

It may be supposed that in thus pushing the general benevolences in a possibly less than average district that other things suffered. On the contrary, the effect was most beneficial. The smallest advance reached on any other collection was 26 per cent.; on ministerial support, 31 per cent. Increase in number of churches, 7 per cent.; parsonages, 36 per cent.; while building and improving church and parsonage property has increased their value 19 per cent. Advance in number of Sunday-schools, 11 per cent.; in officers and teachers, 21 per cent., and scholars, 18 per cent.; and besides, 3,275 probationers have been received during the period, showing that while there is a withholding that tendeth to poverty, there is also a scattering which tendeth to increase.

True, the preachers were selected and stationed on the principles proposed in this paper (the Bishops and presiding elders making all the appointments), and so manned on the whole as perhaps is no other district in the Church. With but six exceptions among the sixty-two preachers in the three years they have been grandly earnest, toiling, able pastors. But that is every presiding elder's business to secure preachers who bring things to pass, and not to be overly tender of those whose only good is to get a living out of the work.

A careful study of the tabulation of Rev. J. W. Young has

also wonderfully aided the connectional work on this district during the last two years, in which it has been understood and carefully and frequently explained to every minister.

There is another and supplementary method for the benevolences which will carry out more fully the object of the plan published in the July number of last year. It is to be published by Phillips & Hunt, and is called the "LAST-MAN PLAN OF CHURCH FINANCE."

It may not be proper for the author of the plan to commend it, but being desired so to do by the editor, he may explain its methods, which are :

1. To district the charge.
2. Take a complete census of each district, entering the names in separate books, one for each district.
3. Combine all the collections, both general and local, into not more than four (excepting Education, which is to be taken on Children's Day), and take one each quarter.
4. Before taking the first, send by the tract committee printed information of each cause to be served by this collection.
5. Take the collection after further explanation of all the objects and sermon upon the subject, by subscriptions or envelopes, entering all amounts pledged to the names in the books, and appoint solicitors to call with the books upon each person as yet credited with nothing, and to follow the same course each quarter.

A church record prepared like the visitors' book enables the pastor to make the plan historical by keeping in more permanent form the roll of all contributions from year to year, so that the growth or decadence of conscience in the Church may be seen throughout all time, enabling a new pastor to find at once, not only about the whole society, but in what attitude each member and adherent stands toward these interests and toward all other items of finance, for the plan provides a memorandum for all.

Another advantage is that while introducing no new machinery it utilizes that already in existence, namely, the committees, and brings as many as practicable into the active work of the Church.

The plan will not work itself, but *operated* it reaches the

last man, woman, and child, and compels them to face the responsibility of contributing or of refusing to do so.

After all, our failure to find the "last man" with enlightenment and solicitation is the real cause of our little success; and to suggest a remedy is the object of this paper. When by the aid of committees, pastors of churches, pastors of pastors, "chief pastors," and boards, in recognition of the oneness of the connectional interests, we determine to find the "last man," and finding him ply with abundant information and calls for contributions, without undue pressure, we shall have discovered "HOW BEST TO SERVE THE GENERAL BENEVOLENCES OF THE CHURCH."

A GLORIOUS CHURCH.

The world is a great wilderness of evil. The Church is to put in the plowshare of truth, pulverize the soil, cast in the seed of the kingdom broadcast or in drills, and so make it fruitful of good things, and redolent with the perfume of the skies. In this great undertaking she is to furnish a job for every one. Every order of talent and degree of capacity can find a place. Take the original company in her, what varieties of faculty and taste and temperament! Jesus Christ knew how to utilize this versatility of talent. Matthew with his business talent, Luke with his scientific attainments, John with his exuberant love, Paul with his philosophic acumen, Peter with his impetuosity, Apollos with his sweetness, Boanerges with his stentorian voice, and Dorcas with her ability to make garments and run a fair for an orphan asylum, or home for the aged. So all were enlisted, and each did a work the other could not. Her future will be glorious in that she shall be without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing. Purity, self-denial, personal activity, and mighty faith leading to great success shall yet characterize all her membership. Her times of greatest power and growth and marvelous conquests come on apace. Once she was but a babe in swaddling clothes; now she is a colossus. She has spoken, and devils have fled. She has prayed, and seas have parted. She has believed, and mountains have rolled into the sea, and empires lie at her feet. She has projected new civilizations.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

MISSIONARIES WANTED FOR SOUTH INDIA.

BY REV. J. M. THOBURN, D.D.

THE South India Conference has formally asked for twenty-five new missionaries, to be enlisted at once and sent out at or near the close of the present year. Bishop Harris and the missionary secretaries have given their official approval to an effort which has been set on foot to find the men, and the means to send them to their respective fields, and I have been duly authorized by them to look for missionary candidates. I have no authority to select or appoint any missionary, but I can find volunteers, give them information, and if they seem adapted to the work, bring them to the notice of the secretaries and Bishop with whom the ultimate authority rests. While spending a short furlough in America, I hope to find these twenty-five missionaries, and on my return to gladden the hearts of our scattered laborers in India by taking out to them the largest missionary re-enforcement ever sent to that great empire.

The term "South India" conveys no adequate idea to the reader in America of the immense area included within the boundaries of the Conference which bears that name. It embraces almost the whole of the Indian Empire. It has one of its most important stations at the farthest extremity of the Asiatic continent, and thus holds the key to the rising island empire of the Indian Archipelago. It carries on its work among more great nationalities than are found in Europe, and in more languages than are spoken in all the vast regions between the Indus and the North Atlantic coast. All over its wide territory it has occupied positions, has organized and built and fortified, and now the time has come to order an advance all along the line. Men are wanted who can learn new languages, imbibe new ideas, adapt themselves to new conditions, and go forth to bear a part in laying the founda-

tions of the mightiest Christian empire on the face of the globe.

More than three hundred million Hindus, Mohammedans, Buddhists, and demon worshipers are around us, and our doors of access to the whole of them stands wide open. The Roman world of Paul's day did not number more than one hundred and twenty millions. Never since the commencement of our era have Christian workers had such an opportunity set before them, or such a responsibility laid upon them. We have been strangely led out into this wide field, and although at times we almost tremble in view of our responsibility, yet we dare not draw back, or for one moment doubt that God has given us an important share of the work of evangelizing these millions.

We need missionaries for various departments of our work. Some can be employed in preaching or teaching in English, but the majority will go at once to vernacular fields. Twenty-five is the best age for a missionary recruit, but a few years less or more may not materially affect the fitness of a candidate. Single men are preferred for the first two or three years, but a limited number of married men will be accepted. A few men of some experience, and, say, thirty or thirty-five years of age, and gifted with a fair measure of administrative ability, are needed for important posts where leadership is specially in demand.

If any young man feels moved to enter this great field and make it his life-work, I shall be glad to correspond with him. Letters addressed to 805 Broadway, New York, will reach me in due time. I confidently expect a prompt response to this call, and no doubt more volunteers will offer than can be accepted. The most willing are not always the best qualified, and many who will ultimately make noble missionaries may not be fitted for immediate service. Let no one hesitate to offer, but let every one be prepared for either acceptance or rejection. Above all, let every lover of missionary work pray earnestly that the Holy Spirit may guide in the selections, and that every one sent may be truly sent of God.

OUR COLLECTIONS FOR MISSIONS.

The receipts of the treasury of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church from November 1, 1885, to June 1, 1886, were \$493,802 65. The receipts for the same months the previous year were \$397,447 23. There are but five months left. Let every pastor do his best to increase his collections. Collection cards will be furnished free on application.

The circulation of our missionary periodicals in different churches and Sunday-schools have largely increased their contributions for missions, and we urge upon the pastors the importance of their introduction.

The "Gospel in All Lands," when sent to any Methodist pastor, is \$1 a year; to others, \$2 a year. If the pastor writes that he will endeavor to secure a club of ten subscribers he can receive subscriptions at \$1 25 each, forwarding the names and money as fast as received, deducting the cost of remittance. The official members of every church and the teachers in the Sunday-school should be urged to subscribe for the magazine.

The "Missionary World" and the "Little Missionary" are well calculated to instruct the young people as to why they should give for missions, and their prices are so low there should be no difficulty in securing the money to pay for them. Will the pastors see that they are in use in every Sunday-school?

Through the effort we have lately been making to obtain the names of the presidents of the missionary societies, we have ascertained that many pastors have neglected to organize their Sunday-schools into missionary societies, as required by the Discipline. We hope this will be speedily done, and that once a month, where possible, and at least once a quarter, there shall be held a missionary meeting in the Sunday-school, where all the exercises shall be arranged to increase the knowledge and interest of the school and Church in missions.

Bishop Hurst writes as follows :

We are now engaged in a new and larger effort for the world's conversion. The successes of the past have revealed, in still fuller measure,

the vast needs of the future. Our Church, six months since, gave its pledge for a million dollars as our next annual gift for the world's conversion. Compared with our large membership, the resources at our command, the breadth of the mission field which we have volunteered to cultivate, and the countless thousands who still lie in the darkness of idolatry, the sum is small. Let the million be our lowest standard for the new year before us! We ask no average gift from our members, no poll-tax method of raising the sum. We ask of the strong to give as best they can, if their gifts ascend to the hundreds and the thousands. We ask of the weak to contribute only according to their ability, if their offerings be only a few farthings. Let the love we bear our Lord and his still blinded creatures in all lands be the measure of our sacrifice. To organize for this great result, to labor by speech and pen and every possible plan, to breathe a hopeful and aggressive spirit into the great body of our membership, is a duty of our ministry all over this broad land. One million in 1886, laid on God's altar for the conversion of the world, may mean two millions, and even more, a year, before the bells shall have rung the nineteenth century out and the twentieth in!

ENCOURAGEMENTS IN MISSION WORK.

The whole world is now open for the reception of the Gospel.

The Bible is printed in 250 languages and dialects.

There are 150,000,000 copies in circulation.

Twenty-five Woman's Boards in England and America are actively engaged in foreign missionary work.

The number of Missionary Societies is tenfold what it was eighty years ago.

The number of converts is nearly fiftyfold.

The increased facilities for inter-communication.

The diffusion of the English language.

Wonderful revivals, with pentecostal power, are frequent in heathen lands.

The increase in membership in heathen lands is thirty times greater than at home in proportion to the number of ministers employed, although the tests of discipleship are of the most trying nature.

But above all other encouragements are the precious promises of God: Isa. 11. 19; 62. 6, 7; Matt. 24. 14; 28. 19, 20; Acts 1. 8.

"Our great desire is to awaken the people of God to the unparalleled opportunities of our own age, and the need of a movement more deep and wide, more earnest and self-denying, more bold and aggressive than any thing that has yet been attempted, to reach the **NEGLECTED AT HOME AND EVANGELIZE THE MIGHTY GENERATIONS ABROAD**—the one thousand million souls who are dying in Christless despair at the rate of 100,000 a day."

SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

MEXICO.

THE Rev. C. W. Drees, on behalf of the Publication Committee of the mission, wrote from the City of Mexico, Feb. 28, 1886, as follows :

The close of our year's work in the publishing interests of our Mexico Mission, and the exhaustion of your grant in aid of our mission press, lead us to address you in acknowledgment of your generous assistance and to request the renewal of the grant for the present year. Your help is of vital necessity to our work, and we trust you are fully aware how much the efficiency of our press—the most important single aggressive agency of our mission—depends upon the resources your Society and the Tract Society afford us.

Brother Butler, the agent, will present a detailed account of the use made of your grant, and we hope his showing will be as satisfactory to you as it has been to us. We are sure that if the fruits of the work could be seen by you and by us, as they are seen by the great Head of the Church, they would stimulate us to still greater activity and you to the investment of a larger amount in this work.

This letter was accompanied by a financial report of the expenditure of the grant made last year, and also a brief note from the Rev. J. W. Butler, the Publishing Agent. In this he calls attention to the fact that the Sunday-school helps from the mission press, in the City of Mexico, are reaching not only every state of the Mexican Republic, but also Cuba, Central America, South America, and the Spanish-speaking people in New Mexico, California, and Nevada.

The Board at its meeting in June renewed the grant asked for.

INDIA.

The Revs. Craven and Messmore, the official agents of the publishing interests of our Church in India, write as follows from Calcutta, April 20 :

The proudest feature of our North India work, as you know, next to that of its saved membership, is its Sunday-school. To bring about the grand results attained, to enroll its army of 20,000 from among Brahminical castes, Hindu sects, and bigoted Mohammedans, the Sunday-school picture, illustrated ticket, illustrated book, and singing-book have been

valuable supplements to the brethren of faith and energy who have worked up such an army. These have been supplied by your contributions. We rejoice in what you have been able to do.

Now we would see an army of 20,000 children enrolled in Bengal. Though missions are old here compared to ours in the North, there is no Sunday-school work compared to ours. There are day-schools everywhere. Education is further advanced, but Sunday-school work lags. The little cloud of promise is seen. We need the appliances.

We need \$1,000 worth of Sunday-school hymn-books, tickets, pictures, illustrated books, and we think something can be done. A collection of hymns is being made, and fifty ticket-verses of Scripture to fit in the nice little pictures you use with the lessons are being selected. Last night we visited a lady with the idea of getting some sketching done, and we have good engravers, and with even \$1,000 we will make an appreciable beginning.

FROM THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST.

The Rev. A. H. Gillet, D.D., our agent in the South, sent the following report to the Board at its meeting in March. As it came too late for insertion in the April MANUAL, it is inserted here:

During the quarter ending Feb. 28 I have attended four Annual Conferences, held four Sunday-school congresses, twelve local conferences, attended two ministers' meetings, delivered 72 addresses, preached 16 sermons, visited 11 Sunday-schools, written 945 letters, traveled 4,144 miles, in the States of Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Indiana, and Ohio. In addition to this, I have sent out second-hand books to sixteen different schools in eight different States, and to the number of 1,650 volumes.

The good work begun in Louisiana and the South-west has been followed up by correspondence and series of meetings conducted by local workers. The meetings held at Aiken, S. C., and Chattanooga, Tenn., during this quarter were both well attended, and created a great deal of interest in Sunday-school work where it was very much needed. The demand for books, papers, and lesson-helps in this Southern field increases as the schools improve. I am trying to induce pastors and superintendents to purchase wherever possible, but they are poor beyond description, and we must help them for some time to come.

By the division of the Florida Conference, and the organization of a new white Conference in that State, a new field is opened to us, and if we promptly enter it we may succeed in building up strong schools and churches in many of the new towns and villages in the State. I am planning a trip through the State with reference to assisting our pastors in organizing in new places.

As I see more of the South and come to understand it better, I feel we have a great work to do here. I have been kindly treated every-where,

and am very grateful for the opportunities which open before me, and which, by the grace of God, I hope to improve.

We add to the above the following report from Dr. Gillet, which was presented at the June meeting of the Board. Both reports will be found worthy of careful consideration :

The three months just passed have been months of unusual activity, and I trust, by the blessing of God, of unusual success. During the time I have attended 2 Annual Conferences, 19 Sunday-school congresses, 2 Sunday-school conventions, 2 preachers' meetings, preached 21 times, visited 10 Sunday-schools, delivered 97 public addresses, traveled 5,995 miles, in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Indiana, and Ohio, and have written 1,212 letters, and distributed, through pastors and Sunday-school workers, a large number of tracts.

The first month of the quarter was nearly all taken up with the work of the Florida Chautauqua at De Funiak Springs, Fla. The attendance on this assembly was much larger than at the session of last year. A large number of representative men of our Church delivered lectures and assisted in the work of the assembly. A normal class of about 50 members was taken though the Course of Study of the Assembly Normal Union, and a class of nearly as many members took a Course of Study for Primary Teachers. A number of our preachers from Alabama and Florida were present, and availed themselves of the opportunities offered by the course of lectures and study provided for ministers.

A considerable number were induced to take up the Course of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. A Teachers' Congress was held, at which nearly 400 of the school-teachers of Florida and adjoining States registered their names. The result of the work cannot be estimated, and the work has but just begun.

To our Church tangible results appear in the organization of the McCormick University under the control of the Methodist Episcopal Church. A building for the preparatory department of this institution has been completed, and though opened about Feb. 1, nearly 60 students have thus far received instruction. The trustees (Bishop W. F. Mallalieu, president) have received a valuable tract of land, 160 acres, near the site of the Florida Chautauqua, on which permanent buildings will be erected the coming year. In the chapel of the temporary building, regular preaching services are conducted by a minister of our Church and a Sunday-school held each Sabbath. The attendance on the latter is large, averaging about 100; and this in a place where, two years ago, hardly ten children could be found. The outlook for the assembly and the school is excellent, and through both our beloved Methodism will gain much, and so in time become better able to do the great work opening before us in the South.

Immediately following the assembly, I undertook a series of meetings in Georgia and Tennessee. My plans were somewhat interfered with by

the disastrous floods which prevailed through the South during the first part of April. The Annual Institute was held at Central Tennessee College, Nashville, Tenn. In this I was assisted by the Rev. W. L. Davidson, of the East Ohio Conference ; Dr. O. P. Fitzgerald, editor of the "Christian Advocate," of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South ; and Mr. Morrow, a prominent layman and Sunday-school worker of the same Church.

Following the session of the North Indiana Conference, I spent a little time at home, and on April 23 started on a campaign through the State of Mississippi. I met Bishop Mallalieu at De Funiak Springs, Florida, where we dedicated the temporary school building above referred to, and there, on May 1, began our work at Pass Christian, Miss. The Gulf District Conference had been called to meet here, and we found a large number of the ministers and laymen of the district present. Meetings were held on Saturday and Sunday. The attendance was very large and the interest intense. Rev. W. L. Davidson joined us here and rendered most valuable assistance throughout the trip. The following places were visited and meetings held: New Orleans, La.; Memphis, Tenn.; and the following in Mississippi: Pass Christian, Summit, Brookhaven, Jackson, Yazoo City, Vicksburg, Meridian, Macon, Columbus, West Point, Starkville, Cumberland, Walthall, Durant, Grenada, Holly Springs, Corinth. In all 58 different meetings were held, and not less than one hundred addresses and sermons delivered. The Sunday-school work was the prominent theme at each meeting, and hardly a service closed without an appeal to the impenitent, and several of the churches were left in revival work, which continues with interest to the present time.

The question of temperance is before the State, and our assistance was continually asked by leading white citizens to pledge the colored church-members to total abstinence and prohibition. This we did wherever possible. The churches of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, were opened for us at nearly every place, and we were solicited to conduct services for them. The ministers and members of nearly all the Southern churches evinced an interest in our work, and often attended our meetings in considerable numbers. There is evident throughout the State a growing good-will toward our Church, and an increasing willingness to aid the Negro in making the most of his advantages. We are indebted to Rev. C. K. Marshall, D.D., of Vicksburg, Miss., and Rev. J. S. Oakely, of Starkville, Miss., for special favor, and have nothing but good to report of all with whom we came in contact.

As I listened to reports of pastors, presiding elders, and superintendents of their work, I was more than ever impressed with the great need of this people. A large proportion of the colored children read and have nothing to read. Nearly every pastor, including some in comparatively good churches, begged for books and papers. I trust that the general observance of Good Tidings Day, and the liberal offerings of the people on that day, will make it possible for us to do much more toward supplying this great need than we have ever done before.

I cannot close this report without bearing testimony to the faithful service rendered our course by Bishop Mallalieu. His official indorsement of the value of Sunday-school work and great interest in it has been of great value to me in my work. In all lines of Church work his influence is strongly felt; his untiring efforts and unswerving faith in God and Methodism all sending a thrill of conscious strength through every channel of Church life in the South. With such leadership, if only more help could be had, God only can estimate the good that might be done.

We are under obligations to Rev. W. L. Davidson for most valuable service in song and address rendered throughout this campaign. His assistance was rendered gratuitously, Bishop Mallalieu and I only assuming his actual expenses.

FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

The Rev. J. C. W. Coxe, D.D., is agent for the West and North-west for the Sunday-School Union and for the Tract Society. The following report from him was read at the June meetings of the two Boards. It contains an account of the work accomplished for the two societies, and in it will be found some interesting statements:

In December, by the advice of Dr. Vincent, I visited such of the Conferences in Texas as it were possible for me to reach after returning from the anniversary at Columbus. At the West Texas Conference, which met in Austin, I held an anniversary, conducted an afternoon conference on Sunday-school and tract work, and distributed a large number of samples of our publications. There is in this (colored) Conference a growing interest and intelligence in our work, and an earnest desire was expressed for the return of the agent to hold Sunday-school institutes at prominent points in the Conference.

While in Austin I had the privilege of addressing the leading Swedish congregation in the State in regard to our work.

At the Austin Conference I had cordial greeting and a fair hearing. Concerning the work in this Conference, I cannot speak as hopefully as of that among the colored people. The reports show but little, if any, advance during the past year.

I visited our schools at Fort Worth and at Marshall—the Texas Wesleyan College and the Wiley University—and sought at each to enlist sympathy for, and secure co-operation in, our side of the educational work of the South.

The remainder of December and the entire month of January were spent in Iowa, chiefly in visiting churches, presenting the claims of the Sunday-School Union and Tract Society, and lecturing on the Oxford League. This organization I have diligently sought to promote wherever I have gone, and have lost no opportunity to urge the claims of "Our Youth" upon both pastors and people.

In February I visited the Arkansas Conference and churches in Arkansas and Missouri. At the Conference an excellent anniversary was held, and a deep interest excited. A Sunday-School Assembly, inaugurated last year at Siloam Springs, under Dr. Gillet, will hold its second session in July, and promises much help to our Sunday-school work in the State.

The month of March was given to the visitation of the six Conferences in Kansas and Missouri, at each of which, except the Missouri, successful anniversaries were held, and Conferences addressed in open session upon our plans and needs. The presence of Dr. Vincent at three of these Conferences was an occasion of great satisfaction and encouragement.

In April I began a round of district institutes and conventions, which will continue until the last of June. These have been held on the Vandalia District, South Illinois Conference; Quincy and Mattoon Districts, Illinois Conference; Ottumwa District, Iowa Conference; Flint, Saginaw, and Alpena Districts, Detroit Conference; and the Platteville District, West Wisconsin Conference; with engagements pending for June in three districts in Dakota. At each of these gatherings I have lectured on the Oxford League and on some phase of Sunday-school work, taught one or more normal lessons, and improved all incidental opportunities for interesting the pastors in thorough and systematic tract work. In the brief intervals between these district meetings I have visited seven churches, preaching and lecturing as opportunity offered, and taking collections. I have been unable to respond to all the calls for service which have come to me, but have aimed to go where the largest number could be reached and there was most promise of good to be secured.

The following summary may indicate in concise form the work covered by this report: Number of miles traveled, 10,374; number of sermons, addresses, etc., 92; number of Annual Conferences visited, 9; number of District Conferences visited, 8; number of churches visited, 18.

The correspondence of my office is increasing as the needs of the field become more apparent and my relation to the societies becomes better known. I have met a cordial reception every-where; have been encouraged by kind words, cordial co-operation, and, generally, liberal giving. I am burdened by the apathy of some of our people in the presence of obvious and imminent peril; am amazed at the ignorance of many pastors, and of some higher in authority, concerning our connectional interests; but am encouraged by the zeal and fidelity of the majority of our Sunday-school workers, their eagerness to learn of new methods, and their readiness to seize upon and utilize whatever promises better work and larger results.

It will thus be seen that we are, through this agency and that of Dr. Gillet, awaking an interest in our work in a part of the Church that needs special attention. The younger preachers are learning how to take hold of Sunday-school work, and through them the efficiency of the lay helpers is greatly increased.

GOOD TIDINGS DAY FOR 1886.

The Boards of Managers of the Sunday-School Union and of the Tract Society unite again in recommending to the pastors and churches the observance of the third Sunday in October as GOOD TIDINGS DAY. Last year was the first in which the day was observed, and the result of the experiment was so satisfactory that it is thought desirable to continue it.

The most of the pastors who observed the day last year unite in speaking of the increased interest aroused among the people in the work of the two societies. The beautiful service prepared for the occasion was a great help to the success of the day. The succinct statement of facts connected with the work gave to many people a new idea of what has been accomplished, and thus prepared them to give for these societies in an intelligent manner.

There is special propriety in the day selected, because it is the day which for a number of years has been observed as a day of prayer for Sunday-schools throughout the world. On this day when prayer is offered for the success of Sunday-schools, it is appropriate that the prayers be combined with offerings to the treasury of our Sunday-School Union, and also of the society which the General Conference has associated with it—the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

A suitable service will be prepared to aid in the observance of the day. When ready, announcements will be made in the Church papers and by circulars.

TO THE PASTORS.

Copies of the Year-Book for 1885 can be obtained by addressing the Corresponding Secretary, 805 Broadway, New York.

A new edition of Dr. Freeman's tract on the history and work of the Sunday-School Union is now in press. Copies can be had on application as above.

TRACT SOCIETY.

JAPAN.

THE awakening of interest in Japan on the subject of Christianity is one of the most hopeful signs of the times. There is published in Tokio a weekly paper called "The Christian." It is in quarto form, and contains eight pages. The most of the articles are in Japanese, but a part of one page is printed in English. From the number dated April 15, 1886, we extract the following article, believing that our readers will be interested by its statement of the religious needs and resources of Japan :

THE NEED FOR A MORE EXTENSIVE CHRISTIAN LITERATURE IN JAPAN.

Few countries have presented such difficult questions to the Christian missionary as those which are almost daily arising in Japan. With the great and most phenomenal changes which are taking place in the government and in the people of this land, there is a growing interest in the Christian religion, and a rapidly increasing membership among the Christian churches. Few, besides those who have lived in Eastern lands, have any conception of what a complete renunciation of the old man and his ways the acceptance of Christianity by a Japanese involves. Not only must he change his entire mode of life, but even his manner of expression ; his tastes also change, and new needs arise. Among these needs is that of a new and purer literature, or that the old be purged of all that is immoral and unseemly. Of the two means of providing for this necessity, the introduction of a new literature seems more feasible.

Christian men, perhaps, may be well provided for in the numerous translations of foreign histories and works on literature and science which are continually being published in this country, but the women and children have little else besides the Bible and a few Christian tracts and books which have been published for them. Perhaps this may be the best thing to lead them to study their Bible more, but we cannot help feeling that a more extensive collateral literature to the Bible is absolutely required ; for, if we turn to the literature within the reach of the average Japanese, we find it to consist principally of fabulous history, cumbersome codes of morals, and wild romance.

Among the books read usually by men are such histories as the "Nihon-gwai shi," "Nihon sei ki," "Kokushi ryaku," histories of Japan, in which stories of the deeds of the ancients are told, and the mythical and real

mingled often in undistinguishable forms. There are also such works as the "Shi ki," "Jū hachi shi riyaku," both histories of China. Men also read "Bunshō kihan" and "Hachi dai ka." Of Chinese literature, which come within the reach of the common male reader, the "Shi sho," or Confucian analects, are widely read, and contain many great truths as well as fallacies. Among women, the "Heike monogatari" and "Tai hei ki," mostly classical narratives, are much read, also such novels as "Hakken den" and many others, few of which, however, are fit for a Christian to read. For want of space we are unable to give a complete list of the Christian religious publications in Japanese, but the following is a rough estimate : 2 monthly periodicals, with a circulation of 3,400 copies ; one weekly, circulation, 600 copies ; and about 40 books and 50 tracts.

Printing is now so cheap, and the facilities for circulation so great, that we hope the time is not far distant when this great need of the day may be adequately met.

Our publishing agency in Japan is well manned and is doing effective work. The agent, the Rev. L. W. Squier, writes from Yokohama, February 22 :

By this mail I am sending you a sample copy of each of the tracts recently published by our Church in Japan. The list is as follows : "Church Record," "Hallowed Songs" (without notes), "Martin's Evidences of Christianity" (from the Chinese), "Wesley's Sermon on The Witness of the Spirit," "Influence of Wesleyanism," "The Solidarity of Methodism" (translation from Dr. Dorchester), "Essay on Uniform Bible Reading," "An Important Lesson," and "Call to Christian Services" (Leaflets I and II).

The books and tracts thus sent are very creditable specimens of typography. In their circulation they will doubtless prove to be seed sown in good soil. Under date of March 3, Brother Squier sends a report for the last quarter of 1885, from which it appears that the following books were printed during that time : 2,000 "Martin's Evidences of Christianity," 1,000 "Influence of Wesleyanism," 1,000 "Solidarity of Methodism," 3,000 "Hallowed Songs" (without notes), 2,000 "Essay on Uniform Bible Reading," 2,000 advertising sheets, besides other and smaller productions.

In the letter accompanying he says :

This is certainly the golden period, an opportune time in this harvest-field for the spread of Christian literature, and I long to see the day when Methodism will seize its opportunity in Japan, as it has recently in India. In the meantime, we are doubly grateful for what our Tract Society is enabling us to do in Japan. By the last mail I received the grant of

two copies each of the publications of the Tract Society. Please accept my hearty thanks to you and the Board of Managers for placing in our hands so much excellent material for translation.

Again, on May 5, he writes :

By this mail I send you a copy of the second edition of "Hallowed Songs," our Japanese hymnal. The printing was completed last Friday, the 30th *ult.*, and the binding is now going forward. The edition numbers 2,000 copies.

We have now in press "Old Testament History," compiled by Miss E. Russell, of the W. F. M. S. in Nagasaki. It will make a stout volume of about 500 pages. We have also in press Whedon's "Commentary on Matthew," to be published in two volumes, of 500 pages each. We are at the same time getting out several smaller tracts.

The mission is very anxious that the work of building up a Christian literature for Japan shall not be delayed, and at its last meeting unanimously adopted an appeal to the Tract Society for more aid. I take pleasure in inclosing herewith a certified copy of the mission's action on this subject.

The resolution referred to is as follows :

Resolved, That the Japan Methodist Episcopal Mission earnestly requests the Board of Managers of the Tract Society to make this mission a grant of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for publishing work in Japan the current year.

The Board, at its June meeting, readily granted this request.

INDIA.

This vast field of mission work is ever needy and ever calling for help. If India had all the money which could be profitably used for religious literature, we could easily empty our treasury. Craven and Messmore, the book agents for India, write from Calcutta, under date of April 20 :

1. We desire to lay before you the work we are aiming to do in Calcutta for Bengal and India, and to ask of the Tract Society the help we so much need. We are aiming to counteract the strong influences brought to bear by educated Hindus against Christianity. They are publishing the work, in whole or in part, of infidel authors. There are regularly organized societies for this purpose—one in Lahore, and one in Benares—and while I know of no one society in Bengal, there is much of such literature published. We have printed 5,000 of "Inspiration of the Bible," 2,000 "From Unbelief to Faith," a total of 7,000 tracts, to this end.

2. We aim also to quicken Christian activity and faith as, perhaps, the best reply to our foes. To this end we issued 2,000 copies of "Prevailing

Prayer" and 2,000 copies of "To the Work, To the Work." A large number of native Christians can read English. The usefulness of these English prints is extensive.

3. We have also issued a Church paper in Bengali; 500 copies are issued monthly. We have two manuscripts in our possession, when funds shall be available.

4. The greatest work we issue is the "Indian Witness." It helps the preachers, Hindustani preachers. It carries its influence into the work prosecuted in Hindustani and Bengali, as well as in English; for I know it to be a fact that many, if not most, of our Hindustani preachers who know English get their fuel from this source. Its circulation is small, compared to the circulation of the home "Advocates," but considering the number of our brethren who depend solely upon its columns (aside from the Bible) for thought and quickening, its influence becomes wide. It is with great regret that we have to say it is not self-supporting. It is paying an assistant editor 200 rupees per month, and it will require 1,300 to 1,500 rupees to wipe out the debit balance against it.

For assistance in printing the English books and tracts, for printing Bengali books and the Bengali monthly of our Church, and for meeting the deficiency on the "Witness," we estimate that an appropriation of \$1,500 would be required. We trust you will let us beg that this amount may be given. It is very, very small, when this population of 60,000,000 of Bengal and 250,000,000 of India are taken into consideration.

We pray you to send us this help speedily.

This earnest appeal is heartily approved in a letter from the Rev. J. M. Thoburn, D.D., secretary of the Board of Publication in India, who is now in this country for a short time. Dr. Thoburn knows the field well, and he urges as liberal grants as our means will allow.

The Board, at its recent meeting, resolved to continue the grants to that large and interesting field.

MEXICO.

The Rev. C. W. Drees, Chairman of the Publishing Committee, wrote from the City of Mexico under date of Feb. 28, asking for a renewed grant for tract work in this important field. The report contained a financial statement for the year 1885, from which it appears that sixteen different tracts were printed, the total number of copies being more than one hundred thousand. We give an extract from his letter:

I am requested by the Publishing Committee of the Mexico Mission Press to communicate to you the grateful acknowledgment of the mis-

sion for your generous grant in aid for the year past, and to request the renewal of the grant to the same, or if it may so be, to a larger amount. We doubt not our agent's report of work done with your grant will show that of what we so freely receive we as freely give—and, we trust, wisely.

So far as we can see, without your continued and abundant help the work of our press would be, to a great extent, crippled. Your co-operation is to us a vital necessity.

That the work in Mexico be not crippled, the Board, at its June meeting, made an appropriation of \$1,000. This appropriation would have been made in March, as usual, but the application for the renewed grant and the report of the expenditure of the former grant were delayed and did not reach us in time. This was greatly regretted, but as soon as the grant was made, it was sent with all expedition.

CHINA.

The Rev. N. J. Plumb writes from Foochow, China, giving an account of the expenditure of the grant for 1885.

The largest and most important work printed at the Society's expense during the year has been a fine edition of our new and considerably enlarged Hymn Book and the Ritual in our new type, a great improvement on our former edition. Quite a number of new hymns and selections from other hymn books have been added. I send you by this mail a copy bound in cloth.

Nearly all of our most valuable tracts were sold out during the year, making it necessary to print a fresh supply.

I wish, in behalf of the mission, to tender you our hearty thanks for all the aid of funds so freely granted us, so essential to our work.

Of the Hymn Book 3,000 were printed, and of the Ritual, 1,000. Besides these, 325 copies of Baker on the Discipline were printed, and over 6,000 sheets on the Sabbath and other subjects.

FRANCE.

We have no letter from France to give to our readers in this number of the *MANUAL*. Alas! the hand which has written for us heretofore will write no more. We have been deeply affected at receiving intelligence of the death of the Rev. Jean Paul Cook, whose great interest in the evangelical literature of France is so well known. At the head of the French Wesleyan Book Concern, he was the official agent to

whom the grants from our Society were sent, that organization having been made by the last General Conference an auxiliary of our Tract Society. His interest in his work was intense, and great was the satisfaction with which he received the intelligence that our Society had made a grant for it. That the money was well expended we have abundant reason to know, and it will doubtless be the good pleasure of the Board to continue the grants to his successor when named.

From "The Christian Advocate," of which he was for many years the French correspondent, we take the following from the pen of one of his colleagues, the Rev. M. Gallienne :

On Wednesday, May 5, the Wesleyan Chapel in Rue Roquépine, Paris, was completely filled with Christian friends met to bury Jean Paul Cook, the President of the French Methodist Conference, and for many years the French correspondent of this paper. He was only in his 58th year, and his robust frame and his very simple mode of life seemed to promise many more years of activity. But a very insidious disease had been preying on his constitution, and suddenly appeared in the shape of a lung trouble. Throughout last winter he battled against his increasing weakness. In February he went to the south of France for a milder climate, but nothing availed. He came home a great deal weaker, but hopeful to the end. He could not believe he was dying. The day before his death he was still trying to sing a hymn. On the morning when it was apparent to all that he was going he said to his wife: "I feel I shall have some glad surprise to-day. I do not know what it shall be." And his wife answered: "What if it should be the surprise of awaking in heaven?" "I should be happy, very happy; but I do not think it will be that yet." He passed away in his sleep.

The loss to French Methodism and to French Protestantism is immense, for Paul Cook was a man of indomitable activity, and would have made his mark anywhere. He began active life as a teacher, and showed wonderful aptitude for reaching the hearts of children. In 1852 he came to Paris as a catechist, a children's pastor, and he was one of the organizers of the Sunday-School Union of Paris. He planned the first French paper for Sunday-schools, became in 1858 the first traveling agent of that Society, and did more than any other man to create schools and inspire an enthusiasm for that cause. His ideas were thoroughly American on that question, and he never was satisfied with the strange remissness of French Christian men, who almost entirely leave this work to pastors and very young people. He would have liked the whole Church to enlist in the blessed work.

As a pastor, he was highly esteemed. Not a great preacher, but universally liked. He used to speak to his audience almost as he would have spoken to a Sunday-school, fully explaining the matter in hand with no

outbursts of eloquence and yet with that thorough conviction and heartiness that carried the people along. And what an amount of work he could do! Up every day before any body else in the house, he could do a large amount of writing before breakfast, and had a good deal of time left for visiting and general work in committees, etc. He was very orderly and clear in his manner of working, nor was he troubled with that painful consciousness which causes many an able man to pause before uttering his thoughts or working out his plans. Paul Cook went along with the evenness of a man who does his best with a good conscience toward God and man. Of course he trod sometimes on the toes of more careful people, and made every now and then some blunder. But he bore malice to no one, and no one could keep any grudge against him, and in his somewhat rough fashion he did a great deal of good while others were simply planning how to do it without mistakes.

And what a thorough-going Methodist he was! He loved the very sound of the name, and for the Methodist Church, in its distinctive character, he has done more than any man in France. He was great at organization, and has written the only book on Methodist discipline in French, with the plain title "*L'Eglise Evangélique Méthodiste.*" His last literary work was the correcting for the press of Wesley's "*Christian Perfection.*"

A SPECIAL AGENT FOR NEW YORK CITY.

The Board has for a long time had in contemplation the appointment of a special agent for the city of New York. It was urged that such an agent was needed in view of the immense population of this great commercial center which might be reached through our Tract Society. Here come immigrants from all quarters of the world; here are prisons, and almshouses, and public institutions of various kinds filled with people, to whom the printed page may become a messenger of God; here are countless numbers of sailors from every clime; here are vast tenement houses, each of which contains a population equal to that of many a country village. To organize labor among our churches so that these various classes may be reached with tracts is a work legitimately belonging to our Society. There is a special propriety in this work from the fact that a few years ago a lady of this city left this Society a handsome bequest, because she felt a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of the poor of the city of New York.

After carefully considering the whole subject, the Board at its March meeting determined on the appointment of a special agent for this city, and intrusted the matter to a committee

with directions to confer with the Bishops. In accordance with this resolution, the Rev. George H. Goodsell, of the New York East Conference, was duly appointed to the agency, and entered on his work on the adjournment of his Conference. All who know this brother recognize the fitness of his appointment. He is to labor irrespective of Conference lines, having supervision of the tract work in the entire city. He is not, however, to labor irrespective of the pastors, but in connection with them. And we trust that by their help and that of the Tract Committees of the various Quarterly Conferences he will have the entire city covered with a systematic plan of tract work.

From the report presented by Brother Goodsell at the June meeting of the Board, we give the following :

The appointment of an agent for a particular field implies that there are pressing reasons for such an appointment in the moral and religious necessities of the people among whom he is to labor. New York city is such a field, requiring special attention, and it ought to be cultivated for all it is worth.

It has a great cosmopolitan population of 1,300,000, representing forty different nationalities ; a Roman Catholic population of 400,000 ; of Germans, 350,000 ; Jews, 80,000 ; 25,000 Bohemians ; 12,000 saloons, and 20,000 bar-keepers. Though there are 421 churches and synagogues, 500 ministers, priests, and rabbis, there are 500,000 people who never enter our churches. As a denomination we have 53 English-speaking churches, 4 German, and one Swedish. But what are these among so many ? A large amount of missionary work must be done outside of church walls—among the 260,000 sailors who annually visit this port, the soldiers in the forts, and the seamen in the navy yard. The hospitals, charitable institutions of all kinds, 300 public, 500 private, must be visited. 281,000 immigrants landed at Castle Garden in 1885. There is a work to do among them. So numerous and pressing are the duties of the pastorate in the city that no pastor can do this outside work. Some one must devote his whole time to it.

As soon as practicable after Conference the agent began his work, under the direction of the secretaries. A circular was issued to the city pastors, requesting them to return the postal inclosed, with the name and address of each member of the Tract Committee appointed by the Quarterly Conference. He at once arranged with the pastors, and by grouping the churches, has been able to present the importance of our work to the following committees : St. Paul's, Park Avenue, Washington Square, Bedford Street, Sixty-first Street, Seventy-sixth Street, Thirty-seventh Street, Beekman Hill, Willett Street, Attorney Street, Second Street, Allen Street,

Jane Street, Perry Street, St. James, Washington Heights, West Harlem, and Church of the Saviour; and hopes during the present month to visit nearly all. Some of our meetings have been very interesting. The one at Washington Square was especially so; and the agent was requested to call another meeting of the contiguous churches, seven in number, and, in co-operation with the pastors, district that part of the city for the more effectual work of tract distribution.

I have put into circulation, personally and by assistant helpers, about 20,000 pages of tracts, in City Hall Park on Sundays, Bellevue Hospital, Governor's Island, and on steamers. The field is widening every day, and calls for more than the labors of one man.

We shall try and organize just as much work as we can do ourselves, and shall enlist as many workers as possible. We ask the co-operation of our brethren in the ministry; for, when interested, they are our best friends. We purpose calling a Tract Conference this fall, to be held at some central point, which we hope will be largely instrumental in awakening among the churches and community a new interest in the work.

REPORT OF THE AGENT FOR WEST AND NORTH-WEST.

The report of the Rev. J. C. W. Coxe, D.D., the Agent of the Sunday-School Union and of the Tract Society, will be found on page 239. It refers to work done for both societies, and will well repay a perusal.

A WORD TO PASTORS.

Any pastor can obtain a copy of our Year-Book for 1885 by addressing the Corresponding Secretary, 805 Broadway, New York.

A new edition of Dr. Freeman's tract on the history and work of the Tract Society is now in press. Copies will be sent to pastors on application as above.

GOOD TIDINGS DAY FOR 1886.

It is proposed to observe again the third Sunday in October as GOOD TIDINGS DAY. For further particulars, see page 241.

BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION.

DIRECTORY.

PROPER CORPORATE NAME: "THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH."

OFFICE: CHURCH EXTENSION ROOMS, NO. 1026 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

ORGANIZATION, CHARTER, ETC.—See Discipline, Edition of 1884, ¶¶ 297 to 320. See also Report to General Conference of 1884; tracts, etc., furnished by the Board.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE meets annually in the month of November in the Church Extension Rooms, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION meets on the second Wednesday in each month in the Church Extension Rooms.

THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, *Rev. A. J. Kynett, D.D.*, has charge of all the correspondence and business of the Board. All communications should be addressed to him at No. 1026 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE ASSISTANT CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, *Rev. W. A. Spencer, D.D.*, assists the Corresponding Secretary, especially in the field work.

THE TREASURER, *James Long, Esq.*, has charge of the funds, as his office implies. All remittances of money should be by draft on New York, or Post-office Money-order on Philadelphia, Pa., payable to his order, and inclosed to the Corresponding Secretary as above directed.

ALL APPLICATIONS FOR AID must be made, as the Discipline provides, upon blank forms furnished by the Board, and in strict accordance therewith.

IN ALL BEQUESTS the following form should be observed :

I give and bequeath to "THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH," incorporated by the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, the sum of; and the receipt of the Treasurer thereof shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors for the same.

IN DEVISES OF REAL ESTATE observe the following :

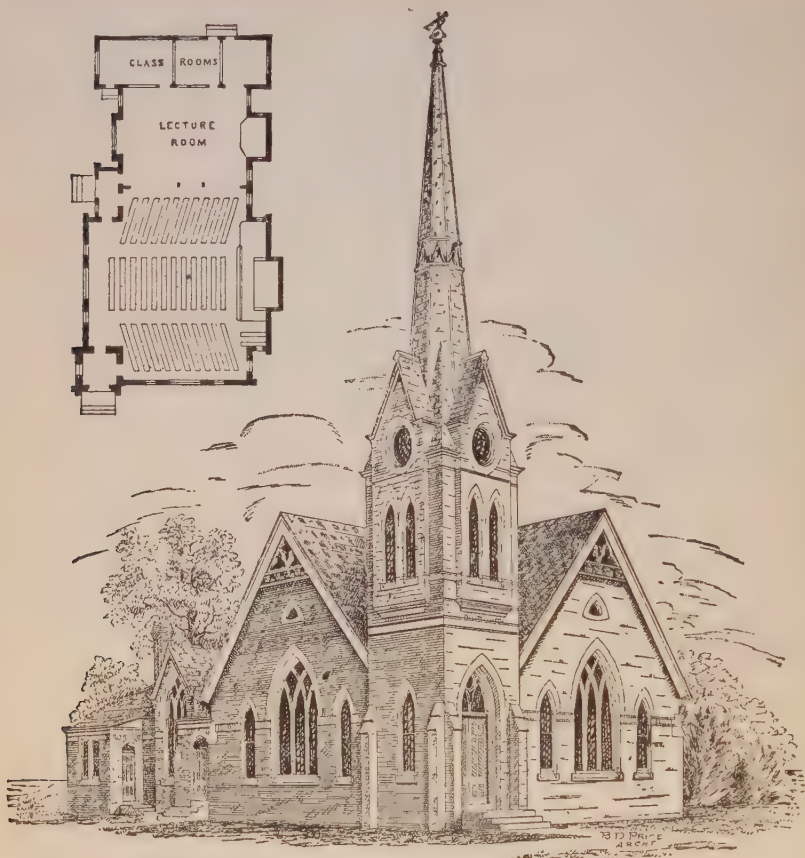
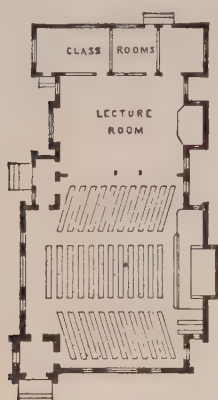
I give, bequeath, and devise to "THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH," incorporated by the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, the following land and premises, that is to say :

.....
.....

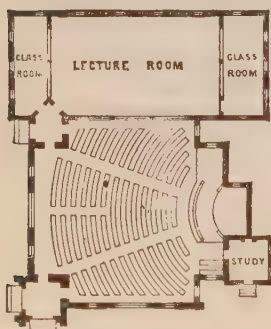
to have and to hold the same, with the appurtenances, to the said Board, its successors and assigns, forever.

Persons making Bequests and Devises to the Board, or knowing that they have been made, are requested to notify the Corresponding Secretary, at No. 1026 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa., and, if practicable, to inclose a copy of the clause in the will, that the wishes of the testator may be fully known.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, blank deeds, church plans, tracts, leaflets, etc., concerning Church Extension, write to the Corresponding Secretary.



OUR MODEL CHURCHES.



No. 46 A.—GROUND-PLAN.

• This, as shown above, appears in our Catalogue for 1886 as Plan No. 46. Modified, as indicated in lower ground-plan, it is described as No. 46 A. The plans provide for building in brick, and are furnished complete, ready for the builder, for \$35.

In No. 46.—The extreme measurement of ground occupied is 57x96 feet. The auditorium contains 370 full seats. The lecture room is 26x34 feet, exclusive of the recesses, and

PAPER IMITATION OF STAINED GLASS.

Equally adapted to large or small windows; large or small panes of glass. 850 churches have used it.

1886.—SEVENTH YEAR.

Hundreds of churches, offices, bath-rooms, etc., have our paper in use. We seldom get complaints of any kind and *never when the work is done by the ladies or the pastors*. A window papered by our method eleven years ago that has never been repaired is still good. *Our paper always sticks when directions have been carefully followed*. It is oiled and varnished after it is applied to the window. The oil makes it translucent and in drying it combines with the paste and makes a durable cement. As a substitute for sun shades or blinds it is perfect, and our experience is that it is more durable and better in every respect than cheap stained glass. During the past few years a number of new churches costing from \$5,000 to \$15,000 have used it.

We get many complimentary letters for which we are always grateful.

Rev. R. K. WAKEHAM, Ellicott City, Md., says: "*It is all that you claim for it, and more than one would imagine it could be before trying it.*"

Rev. W. B. BARR, Grove City, Pa, writes: "*The paper looks splendid and gives very good satisfaction.*"

Rev. D. L. A. DETZER, Huff, Indiana, writes of our paper: "*I put it on myself; I am very, very much pleased.*"

Rev. D. C. PLAMUT, Bismark, Dak., writes: "*Your paper received and put on. It looks finely.*"

T. C. DAVIS, Morehead City, N. C., writes: "*To my surprise, it pleases everybody.*"

Rev. J. G. LIEST, Kansas City, Mo., writes: "*The paper you sent us is all right.*"

Dr. J. W. O. JENKINS, Greenland, N. H., writes: "*I think it equal or superior in offices to real stained glass.*"

Rev. W. G. CONNOR, Georgetown, Texas, writes: "*Several years ago your house furnished the colored paper for the windows of our chapel, and I write hoping you have more of the same kind.*"

Rev. J. K. CARTER Del Rio, Texas, writes: "*I have put it on and am thoroughly pleased with it. It is a grand success.*"

Rev. F. W. NORTHCOTT, North Vernon, Indiana, writes: "*The paper gives entire satisfaction. It is beautiful and cheap.*"

In ordering, send rough drawing showing size, shape and number of panes of glass in each window. Give sizes in figures, and make paper patterns of odd shapes.

We make many designs and many combinations of colors and give full directions for putting on.

PRICE, SIX CENTS PER SQUARE FOOT, SURFACE MEASURE OF WINDOW.

Samples of the paper will be sent for 50 cents, and if the size of window and shape of panes are given, a suitable design and pattern will be made for a part of the window. No other orders filled for less than \$1.00

All orders must be accompanied with draft on New York or Post-office Money Order on Philadelphia, or cash in registered letter covering the cost. The paper will be sent by mail. If ordered C. O. D., express charges will be added. Address,

BENJAMIN D. PRICE & Co.,

1026 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

BENJAMIN D. PRICE & CO.'S

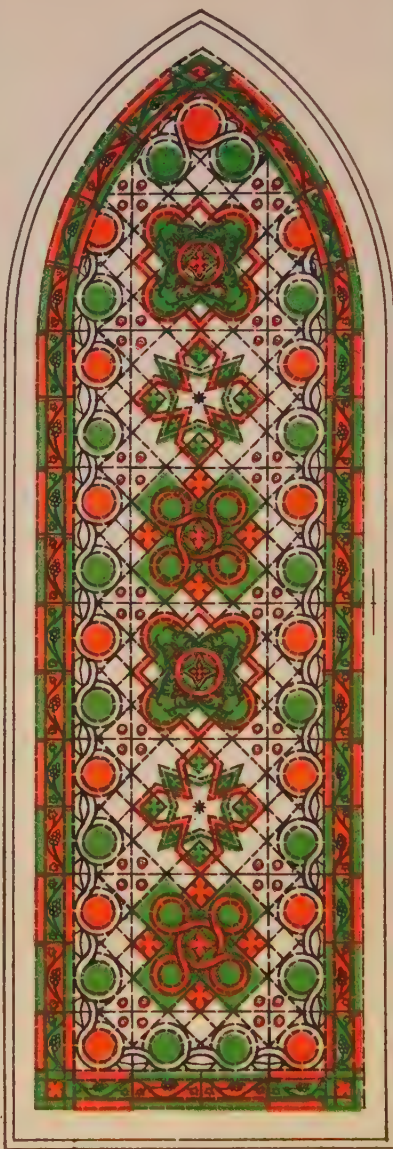
PAPER IMITATION OF STAINED GLASS

Equally adapted to large or small windows. Large or small panes of glass.

850 churches have used it.

The following churches, mostly Methodist, are taken at random from our books. Examine any that may be near you and compare with *cheap* stained glass in other churches.

Mobile,	Alabama.
Globe,	Arizona.
Pine Bluff,	Arkansas.
Siloam Springs,	"
Black Hawk,	California.
East Oakland,	"
Florence,	"
Grangerville,	"
Los Angeles,	"
Livermore,	"
National City,	"
Oakdale,	"
Ornville,	"
Pomona,	"
San Francisco,	"
Sonoma,	"
South Pueblo,	"
Fresno City,	"
Redding,	"
Ione,	"
Crescent City,	"
Willows,	"
Golden,	Colorado.
New Haven,	Connecticut.
Tolland,	"
Washington Depot,	"
Brookings's,	Dakota.
Grand Forks,	"
Omaha,	"
Mandan,	"
Mount Vernon,	"
Watertown,	"
Ellendale,	"
Park River,	"
Wyoming,	Delaware.
Wilmington,	"
Imogene,	Illinois.
Ipava,	"
Iuka,	"
Medora,	"
Minonk,	"
Nashville,	"
Peking,	"
Hooperston,	"
Kankakee,	"
Hennepin,	"
Utica,	"
Bloomfield,	Indiana.
Galveston,	"
Greencastle,	"
Jamestown,	"
South Bend,	"
New Haven,	"
Sheridan,	"
Hartville,	"
Evansville,	"
Mitchell,	"
Belmond,	"
Belmond,	Iowa.
Carson,	"
Corydon,	"
Clearfield,	"
Elwood,	"
Ridgeway,	"
Sidney,	"
Tama City,	"
Des Moines,	"
Keokuk,	"
Missouri Valley,	"
Pella,	"
Red Oak,	"
Van Horne,	"
West Branch,	"
Agency City,	"
Sabula,	"
Edgewood,	"
Colesburg,	"
Camden,	Kansas.
Eureka,	"
Concordia,	"
Junction City,	"
Louisville,	Kentucky.
Sharpsburg,	"
Bastrop,	Louisiana.
Camden,	Maine.
Hartland,	"
Madison,	"
Davidsville,	Maryland.
Federalburg,	"
Rock Hall,	"
Elkton,	"



Carrollton,	Mississippi.
Appleton City,	Missouri.
Hamilton Station,	Minnesota.
Fullerton,	Nebraska.
Blue Springs,	"
Wahoo,	"
Seward,	"
Weeping Waters,	"
Atlantic City,	New Jersey.
Clayton,	"
Carlstadt,	"
New Brunswick (Cath.),	"
Evans Centre,	New York.
Mexico,	"
Buffalo,	"
Elmira,	"
Long Island City,	"
Fairfield,	"
Mount Vernon,	"
Livonia Station,	"
Silver City,	New Mexico.
Penna Blanca,	"
Wilmington,	North Carolina.
Morehead,	"
Jefferson,	Ohio.
Utica,	"
Fultonham,	"
Tremont City,	"
West Toledo,	"
Zanesville,	"
Germantown,	"
New Lyme Station,	"
New Matamora,	"
Pierpont,	"
Mt. Sterling,	"
Marietta,	"
Ottawa,	"
Cayahoga Falls,	"
Lilly Chapple,	"
Confluence,	Pennsylvania.
Dauphin,	"
Ennisville,	"
Greenwood,	"
Humboldt,	"
Lamb's Creek,	"
Luzerne,	"
Nesquehoming,	"
New Milford,	"
Sheakleyville,	"
Spragueville,	"
Woodbury,	"
Slatington,	"
Cooperstown,	"
Youngsville,	"
Providence,	Rhode Island.
Florence,	South Carolina.
Pelzer,	"
Murfreesboro,	Tennessee.
Nashville,	"
Chatata,	"
Union City,	"
Mossy Creek,	"
Austin,	Texas.
Georgetown,	"
Honey Grove,	"
Jefferson,	"
High Hill (Cath. Ch.),	"
Gainesville,	"
Fayetteville,	"
Salt Lake City,	Utah.
Manchester,	Virginia.
Chelsia,	"
Fairfax,	"
Mount Sidney,	"
Culpeper,	"
Jonesville,	"
North Ferrisburgh,	"
Mt. Jackson,	"
Martinsburg,	West Virginia.
Ellenborough,	"
Wheeling,	"
Baraboo,	Wisconsin.
Albany,	"
Superior,	"
Plover,	"
Richland Centre,	"
Colfax,	Washington Territory.
Tacoma,	"
Walla Walla,	"
Laramie City,	Wyoming Territory.

Havre de Grace,	Maryland.
Ellicott City (Cath. Ch.),	"
Miles City,	Montana.
West Portpoint,	Massachusetts.
Taunton,	"
Otsego,	Michigan.
Lake,	"
Flushing,	"
Petrosky,	"
Allegan,	"
Owasso,	"
Fairgrove,	"
East Saginaw (Cath.),	"

will seat over 150. The infant-class room is 12x20 feet. The other class rooms are each 12x12 feet. The walls are 15 feet; plain, raised ceiling, 23 feet high in the middle. The steeple is 12x12 feet square, and 95 feet high to top of vane.

This church will cost from \$9,000 to \$12,000.

In No. 46 A.—The extreme measurement is 63x82 feet. The auditorium contains 350 full seats. The lecture room is 26x45 feet, and will seat 200. The infant-class room is 11x26 feet. The class room is 9x26 feet.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANS furnished up to June 1, 1886, was, for churches, 2,359, and for parsonages, 77; being an addition of 140 churches and one parsonage during the three months ending May 31. The uniform testimony is that the best results, at the least expense, are secured by ordering our plans and conforming to them strictly.

OUR CATALOGUE FOR 1886, recently issued, is the best of all. The number of plans described, counting differences of size and material, as well as of style, is 309, of which 18 are for parsonages or dwellings. This number remains after dropping out 12 which were regarded as of inferior merit. Sixty-one new church plans and one for dwelling are added this year. Great care is exercised to have them as perfect as possible, consistent with such simplicity as that any ordinary carpenter or builder can understand and use them with facility.

The Catalogue is sent without charge to those who wish to build; those who desire simply to see what we have should inclose 25 cents to pay cost of printing and mailing. Those having to do with church building are both too wise and too honest to allow builders to make plans for them from the pictures and descriptions contained in our Catalogue. Those desiring Catalogues or plans should address A. J. KYNETT, D.D., *Corresponding Secretary*, 1,026 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR PAPER IMITATION OF STAINED GLASS, see advertisement of BENJAMIN D. PRICE & Co. It will be seen that large numbers have used it, and those who put it on according to instructions find it satisfactory. In renovating old churches

with plain glass windows it is the greatest improvement, at the least expense, which can be devised. Let the old dingy curtains and rattling shades give place to this, and delight every body with the transformation.

REPORT OF PROGRESS.—In the April number of the *MANUAL* we gave statement of progress for the first four months of the present fiscal year ending February 28. Adding now the months of March, April, and May, we have this result for the first seven months of the current year :

RECEIVED, ON GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Conference Collections.....	\$42,949 85	
Miscellaneous Sources, Bequests, etc...	11,520 63	
Interest on Loans.....	12,492 06	
	<hr/>	\$66,962 54

RECEIVED, LOAN FUND ACCOUNT.

Bequest.....	\$2,000 00	
Subject to Life Annuity.....	5,311 06	
Loans returned.....	22,523 90	
	<hr/>	\$29,834 96
		<hr/>
		\$96,797 50

A comparison with the corresponding period of last year shows an increase of receipts :

On General Account.....	\$3,486 00	
On Loan Fund Account.....	2,146 25	
	<hr/>	\$5,632 25

During the seven months ending with May we considered applications from 254 churches. Of these, 26 were declined for various reasons, and 228 were granted—donations to the aggregate amount of \$46,375, and loans to the amount of \$50,335=\$96,710 50. Grants were paid to 196 churches :

Donations.....	\$31,125 00	
Loans.....	43,635 00	
	<hr/>	\$74,760 00

At the regular meeting for June, we had for consideration applications from 117 churches asking,

Donations.....	\$22,525 00	
Loans.....	27,900 00	
	<hr/>	\$50,425 00

Many of these were from Conferences within which appropriations had already been made of the full amount to the credit of such Conferences for the current year. It was clear that all could not be granted, and it was deemed unwise that churches that cannot receive aid this year should be long held in suspense. After careful consideration of all these applications in Committee and by the Board, 68 were granted :

Donations.....	\$12,075 00	
Loans.....	7,450 00	
		<hr/> \$19,525 00

Forty-nine applications, asking donations of \$10,050, and loans of \$20 450, were declined—in almost every instance for lack of funds that could be made available.

It was with great reluctance that many of these applications were declined, for they were evidently needy and deserving. A large proportion of them could have been provided for with special gifts under the frontier plan if we could have been certain of receiving such gifts. It was, however, deemed unwise that the churches interested should be held in suspense. Possibly a few of them may be able to go forward with such help as they can secure from the people immediately concerned. Others will doubtless have to wait until they can be aided.

Surely the Church will come to understand that we have not more money than we can properly use. We greatly need a large increase of our regular collections and special gifts for frontier churches, without which the Church will suffer irreparably by failure to enter upon golden opportunities.

ACTION OF PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE.—At the recent session of the Philadelphia Conference, held in Centenary Church, West Philadelphia, March 18–24, the following was unanimously adopted :

The Committee on Church Extension begs leave to report that this part of our Church benevolent work was never in a more satisfactory condition than at present. As intelligence concerning the cause is disseminated, and the claims and methods of the society come to be understood, the collections constantly increase. The reports of eight years from 1876 enable us to make the following gratifying statement of this increase : In eight years the number of Conferences increased 23 per cent. The number of pastoral charges in the whole Church increased 13 per cent., and

the number of pastoral charges taking collections of \$10 or over increased 90 per cent., and the number taking collections of less than \$10 increased 27 per cent., while the number taking no collections decreased 37 per cent., thus showing a marked growth in the hold of this cause upon the thought and liberality of the Church. During these eight years there was an increase of 11 per cent. in the amount asked of the Conferences, and an increase of 92 per cent. in the amounts received from the Conferences, showing that the Conferences are responding more loyally to the claims upon them for this cause. There has also been an increase of 100 per cent. in the receipts from other sources for the same period, and of 94 per cent. in the receipts on the general account.

The Philadelphia Conference has contributed to this cause since the organization of the Society \$156,981 69. and has received in donations \$39,165, and in loans \$24,200, by which 91 churches have been aided; 7 additional churches have promise of aid to the amount of \$2,800 in donations, and \$300 in loans.

During the past year the veteran Secretary has been re-enforced in his arduous labors by the election of an able assistant in the person of Rev. W. A. Spencer, D.D., of the Rock River Conference, who has entered upon his work with great enthusiasm.

We offer for adoption the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we commend this cause to the confidence and liberality of our people, and that we will endeavor to raise for the present year the full amount asked of this Conference.

Resolved, That we reaffirm our confidence in the ability and integrity of the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Church Extension, Rev. A. J. Kynett, D.D., and welcome as his assistant Rev. W. A. Spencer, D.D.

CHURCH EXTENSION IN THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCES AND PASTORAL CHARGES.

[See Discipline of 1884, ¶ 102, §1, Ques. 10; and § 3, Ques. 9; also ¶ 183, §§ 10, 17, 19; also ¶¶ 308, 319, and 320.]

A brief study of the provisions of Discipline shows that—

1. The *fourth* Quarterly Conference should appoint a committee on Church Extension of not less than three nor more than five, of which the pastor shall be chairman, to act for the ensuing year.

2. At the *first* Quarterly Conference the amount apportioned for collection, having been determined by the presiding elders as a committee on apportionments, is to be reported and entered. The pastor should take note of it, and it would be proper to refer it to the committee.

3. Immediately thereafter the pastor should call the committee together for consultation as to the measures to be taken to carry into effect the provisions of the Discipline and the plans of the Conference and parent boards for the support of this cause, including those defined by the Discipline, such as a sermon on the subject, public collections, etc. The information needed can be obtained from the Church MANUAL, published by Phillips & Hunt, 805 Broadway, New York; and tracts, song-services, etc., can be obtained of the Board of Church Extension at the actual cost of printing and mailing, to be paid for out of the collection when taken.

4. At the *third* Quarterly Conference the presiding elder should inquire what has been done for this cause, and whether the amount asked has been raised, and if not, to urge that it be done before the year shall close.

5. At the *fourth* Quarterly Conference the final report should be made in answer to the question, "What amount has been raised for Church Extension?" thus closing the business of the year.

6. At the Annual Conference following, the pastor should "*report the amount asked and the amount received for Church Extension,*" in pursuance of this plan.

Who can doubt that, if these provisions of Discipline were faithfully carried out, the amount asked would be easily raised and this important part of our Church work greatly enlarged? The number of churches exceeding the *minimum* suggested in each case would greatly exceed those falling below it.

EXAMPLES OF WORK AND WANT.

We give a few examples out of the 5,527 churches aided through us up to June 1, 1886. It should not be forgotten that these are only a part of those which have greatly needed aid from our Board. Of the 49 applications declined at our regular monthly meeting, June 9, at least 30 were as needy and deserving as most of those we have aided; but when we have disbursed what the Church places at our disposal we can do no more. *If the presiding elders and pastors will every-where faithfully carry out the simple provisions of our Discipline, we can more than double the work we have done,*

within the next ten years, and in all the future the Church would gather the richer harvest.

MORRISTOWN, TENN., HOLSTON CONFERENCE.—Under date of June 3, 1886, we have the following from the pastor, Rev. James J. Robinette :

Last year we applied to the Board of Church Extension for aid in the erection of our church at this place. We received a donation of \$300 and a loan of \$700. This assistance enabled us to go forward in the work of building, and as a result we have a beautiful brick structure, according to design No. 6, Church Extension Catalogue, which was dedicated last Sabbath by Bishop Mallalieu. All of our indebtedness is provided for except what we owe the Board of Church Extension, and that we expect to be able to meet as it shall come due.

We have had a hard struggle to build, and success would have been impossible without the assistance rendered by the Board of Church Extension; but we have the consolation of knowing that we have the best house in East Tennessee outside of Knoxville and Chattanooga. The cost of the building is \$3,800.

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, FLORIDA CONFERENCE.—This is one of the largest and most important towns in Florida, and we have an enterprising church of more than 200 members, with a large Sunday-school, among our colored people. They have undertaken to build a brick church by our plan No. 7 A, of size 40 by 70. For some months their application has been on file asking for a donation of \$1,000 and loan of \$500. It was utterly impossible for us to grant so large an amount, and we were apprehensive that they had undertaken too much. We, however, offered them a gift of \$250 on condition that they should first raise \$1,500 and inclose the church so it could be used without debt. A letter from L. E. Chestnut, president of their Board of Trustees, makes us earnestly wish that we could help them more generously. This can be done only if some generous friend, who appreciates the importance of the enterprise, will furnish the special aid needed. Let Brother Chestnut tell his own story :

I feel compelled to make a few statements which I hope will meet with favor and secure for us larger help. When we first purchased the plan from Mr. Price the outlook for building a church was more favorable, but since that time our financial condition has greatly changed. Money is scarce and times very hard. We had some money when the plan was ob-

tained, and went to work and laid the foundation, spending over \$500 on it. Not having enough more to inclose the building, we were obliged to stop until we could get the expected aid from the Board of Church Extension. Our old building is dilapidated, and it is impossible to accommodate our members. If we fail to get a larger church we shall lose our strong hold in this place. We have a large crowd of young men and women striving, though poor, to make something of themselves. They are much dissatisfied with our cramped condition, and all have expected aid from you. Our Sunday-school, of which I am superintendent, fills the church every Sunday morning, so that only fifteen or twenty visitors can be accommodated at any time, while others are standing outside looking in at the doors and windows. It will require \$2,500 to inclose the building, and if we cannot get more help we shall be obliged to tear down our foundation and build smaller. We have gone too far to change without great loss. If we can get from you a donation of \$500 and a loan of \$500, with what we have on hand and can raise (for we are gathering funds continually in small amounts), we will be able to inclose the building within five or six months. If we can only get in the building we would be better prepared to work for its completion. Please consider these facts and give me an answer as soon as practicable.

Will some good friend of this people, who work so earnestly to help themselves, make it possible for us to be more generous? We verily believe that a donation of \$250 and a loan of \$500 would produce results over which all would rejoice. We will furnish the loan if some special friend will provide the \$500 to be donated.

KIRKLAND, ILLINOIS, ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—With but five members of the Church and a few friends to begin with, our plan No. 5 B E, 30 by 50, was procured, and making application, as the Discipline provides, for a donation of \$250, they began to build. The amount asked was granted on condition that they should first raise \$1,000 and agree to build without debt. The conditions were fully complied with, and the donation paid May 13. Under date of May 21, the pastor, Rev. W. A. Achon, wrote:

The grant was a great help to us, and we feel under great obligations to the Board for this aid. As the town is new, not much attention has been paid to Church collections, but in the future we intend to meet all our apportionments, especially that for Church Extension. It has cost us quite a struggle to build and dedicate this church, which cost about \$3,500, and have it free from debt within seven months. This has not been known as a church-going community, nor are they a wealthy people.

Many were fearful that we could not take the church from the contractor when done, but when the prospect looked dark the Lord opened the way, and on the day of dedication, when the sum of \$1.250 was yet needed, through the wise and efficient management of the presiding elder, Rev. G. R. Vanhorne, every dollar was secured. At Conference last fall we had but four members. We have six now. Our congregations are large, and the people rejoice in having so beautiful a church. We trust it will prove the spiritual birthplace of hundreds. The Board has our hearty thanks for the aid received.

GENOA, NEBRASKA, NORTH NEBRASKA CONFERENCE.—We aided this church last year with a donation of \$250 and a loan of \$500, requiring them first to raise \$750 cash, and agree to build, as proposed, by our plan No. 5 B C, size 32x55, without debt other than our loan. The "District Record" for May of this year contains this account of the dedication:

The new church at Genoa was dedicated April 11 by Bishop Ninde. The time was not auspicious, but was accepted because it was the only near date on which we could have the services of a Bishop. The roads were impassable on account of the mud, and the weather was threatening. This prevented the attendance of many, but the town's people came, and a large delegation from Fullerton and Cedar Rapids came by train. The Bishop preached a sermon on the text, Isa. lii, 1, that will long be remembered. Rev. W. H. H. Pillsbury, D.D., preached an excellent sermon in the evening. It had been decided not to ask subscriptions for all the indebtedness, but for that part of it that was not to run for a term of years. This amount was \$900, which was subscribed during the day, and the Bishop expressed great satisfaction with the result. The finances were managed by the presiding elder. The church is Plan No. 5 B C, Church Extension Catalogue. The audience room is 32x55; class room, 9x18; and tower, 10x10, 65 feet high. The seats are of ash trimmed with walnut, and are of specially comfortable shape. The edifice is an ornament to the town, and is a marvel of economy. The cost of the two lots was \$350; that of the church, \$2,500. Much credit for this economy is due Brother E. G. Cook, treasurer of Nance County, one of the Building Committee. The completion of the church and subscription to the debt lifts a great load from the pastor, as most of the winter was passed without a place in which to hold services in Genoa. He is endeavoring now to secure additional subscriptions and to get all in good working order.

AN EXCEPTIONAL CASE.—In September, 1885, the trustees of our church at ANNELY, HARVEY CO., KAN., SOUTH-WEST KANSAS CONFERENCE, applied for a donation of \$250 and a

loan of \$300 to aid in building a church estimated to cost \$1,500. The amount authorized for use in that Conference having all been appropriated we were compelled to postpone action until April of this year, when we granted the amount asked on condition that they should first raise \$750 in cash, and build, as proposed, without debt other than our loan. Meantime they had been working hard, doing all they could for themselves. Of this we knew nothing until, in reply to our notice of the grant, we received from Rev. B. C. Swartz, presiding elder of the district, a letter, dated June 10, saying :

I am instructed by the trustees of our church at Annely to notify you that the donation and loan granted them, as stated in your notice of April 20, is not needed, and that they relinquish all claim upon you for the same, in order that others less fortunate may be aided. Their church is completed, dedicated, and paid for. This result is largely due to the skillful management of their pastor, Rev. C. A. King, former presiding elder of the district, and to the untiring energy of one of the trustees, who is an excellent financier and persistent worker. They heartily thank you for the generous offer of your Board, and are glad to release their claim in favor of others more needy.

We heartily congratulate these brethren on this result, and warmly commend their example to others, who, by the skillful management of their pastor and untiring energy of trustees, who may be excellent financiers and persistent workers, can accomplish like results.

“WHITE RIVER BASIN.”—Where is that? Let a superannuated member of the Upper Iowa Conference, Rev. J. A. Wilson, who, having come out of a long and dangerous illness, probably to make the rest of his life's pilgrimage on crutches, sought the farther West in quest of health and home, inform you. In a letter urging special aid for a new church in CHADRON, DAWES CO., NEB., he says :

Now I want to describe this country to you, so you may see the importance of our work here. This White River Basin is an immense country. After leaving the Elkhorn Valley you pass through about 150 miles of sand hills, then approach and pass through the Pine Ridge, which is a semi-mountainous range covered with pine. Then you drop down into the White River Basin, which is a tract extending westward into Wyoming, and north-west into the Black Hills, Dakota, and south and south-west to the Platte River—a territory twice as large as the Upper

Iowa Conference. This immense country has just been opened by the coming of the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley R. R. Chadron was laid out *last July*, lots sold on the first day of August, and we now have a town of 2,000 *inhabitants*. The town is not built of "shacks," but good frame and brick blocks and residences. Tens of thousands of people are pouring into this valley. We ought to have, and perhaps will have, a Conference organized here in the course of five years, and as yet nothing has been done. Chadron is central to this whole territory, and touches it all more or less by its business and social influence. Shall the Methodist Episcopal Church have position here? is a question which you must help us to solve. The Congregationalists were early on the ground, and have now a new church completed and paid for—you know how! The Methodists here now are few and poor, yet the masses, as every-where, turn to us. They say they are willing to help, if we can get liberal help from your Board. I know you will do all you can, and hope that it will be so you can grant our application for \$500 donation and \$500 loan. Then will Methodists out here on these outposts rejoice, and the Church we love "arise and shine, her light having come!"

The best we could do for the help of Chadron was to try to find some one who will furnish \$250 under the frontier plan, and send them with this a loan of \$500. This we have promised to do, if they will build, as proposed, without debt other than our loan. Who will take the honor of furnishing this \$250? *Or make it \$500?* It should be that.

HOW THE CHURCH WAS BUILT.—The following, from the "Church Building Quarterly" of the American Congregational Union, describes, in general outline, the usual process and results so well that it might be applied, with few and slight variations, to hundreds of Methodist churches. How all good men should delight in such a work as this! And in our country there is ample room for all the churches to do it, and will be for a hundred years to come:

We looked the town over carefully, but in vain, for any suitable place in which to hold service. There was nothing we could buy. We must build. We met, conferred together, asked God's guidance, decided to build. Our company was canvassed for the very best men and women to solicit subscriptions. We chose our wisest. They apportioned the town, and began taking pledges of money, material, work. Every man, woman, and child was counted for something. Names went down; subscriptions rolled up. We took them by households. Baby in the crib was put down for a dime, or a nickel, more or less. The footings of the canvassers astonished

us. They amounted to \$1,400. We did not think there was half that sum in our little village.

One of our number was a self-made but genuine architect. He drew us a "plan," with "specifications." If the wise-hearted Bezaleel and Aholiab needed a "plan," and if the God of the Hebrews would take time and pains to make one for them (see Exod. xxxv-xxxvii), and order Moses to see that the plan was scrupulously followed (Exod. xxxv, 40, and Heb. viii, 5), we thought it safe for us to do likewise.

We carefully figured the cost of building our plan. It exceeded our subscriptions by \$500. Could we cut down the cost? Could we run up the pledges? Four new families had just come to town. They were shown our plans and pledges. They added \$100. Where should the \$400 deficit come from? Every name was recanvassed. We verily thought we had done all we could. We applied to the Congregational Union for aid. It was promptly voted, and when the work was completed, and "last bills" reduced to \$400, we made our report, executed the required Trust Mortgage, and received for it the invaluable "check." No "check" ever before read as that did. It was good for \$400 on the face of it. But between the lines we read of self-denial, sympathy, love, from far-away friends whom we had never seen; and our hearts warmed in the goodly fellowship.

Never were workmen more warmly watched than God's carpenters on our house. They were the topic of conversation, the subjects of daily prayer. The church was dedicated to God by installments. The work seemed winged. Not an accident, nor a day's serious delay. In two months' time, the last nail was driven. The house was completed. We had an absolute deed of our lot, duly recorded and on file with our "abstract of title" and our receipts for work and material. An insurance policy secured the Union and us from loss by fire.

Then came Dedication Day. It was, by unanimous consent, Parish Thanksgiving Day. The whole settlement turned out. Hearts overflowed. The desire and purpose of our soul was realized. Our house was a gem. It had cost us heavily. Subscriptions had cut below comforts into what most families consider the "necessaries of ordinary living." Not a giver regretted a dollar. Every dime in the house had been given to God. Would "the glory of the Lord now fill the sanctuary?" Exod. xl, 34. "Where two or three are gathered," were the words of Christ. The Spirit descended. The word preached was with power. Thirteen souls surrendered to God that first day in the new church. It was the Spirit's dedication of God's house of prayer.

That church still stands, after eleven years. The work done in it has molded the life of the town. It has been the house of God, the gate to heaven, for scores.

Regularly, at the end of every three months, that little church, according to promise made beforehand, has sent to the Union its quarterly remittance of cash and gratitude, till the last dollar of the Union's grant was

all refunded. But the habit of giving and the stream of sympathy flows on. Sympathy with others, struggling to build, keeps benevolence active. The church is a model member of the "Union Family." Their example will bear study and imitation.

HAVE WE TOO MUCH MONEY ?

BY W. A. SPENCER,

Assistant Corresponding Secretary.

At the General Conference of 1884 a rumor was started that we had more money than we could profitably use.

We began that year with \$21,500 in the General Fund, and \$83,000 in the Loan Fund. During the previous year nearly \$60,000, subject to annuities, had been contributed to the Loan Fund, and nearly \$20,000, carried in property, had been converted into cash; so that the above sum of uninvested money was at that time in the Loan Fund.

This was, by order of the Board, put into interest-bearing securities, which could be converted into cash any day as occasion might require.

This was a part of the balance of \$104,500 in the treasury at the close of the year preceding the General Conference of 1884. And yet, at that date, Nov. 1, 1883, the very time when we had this balance of \$104,500 in the treasury, we had unpaid grants of donations of \$40,105, and loans of \$53,675, or total amounts granted and not yet paid of \$93,780, leaving an available balance of less than \$11,000.

But why were these grants not paid, and why hold one hundred thousand in the treasury ?

Because these grants were on conditions which required a little time for the churches to meet.

To illustrate: On our frontier plan, \$250 is donated on condition that the people secure at least \$1,000 of cash and material. Of course, until this condition is met, the donation cannot be paid.

Almost all grants are made subject to conditions which must first be complied with. Of course there are many churches, at any time in the year, working up to the conditions imposed so as to avail themselves of Church Extension grants.

Again, many Conference Boards of Church Extension meet but once or twice in a year, and meanwhile money accumulates to their credit, to be applied for when they meet.

Thus while we had nearly \$105,000 in the Treasurer's hands, there was less than \$11,000 available for new cases.

But already new cases were on file and not yet considered of nearly \$10,000, leaving only about \$1,000 of balance available for cases already on their way. Almost any mail would bring enough to use up this balance.

But we must remember also that this total surplus is of two kinds, and cannot be used interchangeably.

Each fund must be sacredly kept separate, and can only meet its own claims. To have paid the donations already conditionally granted would have required additional receipts by collections of \$23,400.

A year later we closed the year 1884 with \$33,000 in the General Fund, and only \$37,331 in the Loan Fund; or a surplus of over \$34,000 less than the year before.

There were outstanding grants at that time of donations and loans of \$65,650, so that to have met these cases would have overdrawn the General Fund by \$17,775, and the Loan Fund by \$169.

In other words, we ended the year with nearly \$18,000 of needy cases, more than we had money to credit of both funds, though, six months before, it was currently rumored that we had too much money.

A year later we came to the end of 1885, at our November meeting, with \$40,035 in General Account, and \$9,745 in Loan Fund, a total of nearly \$50,000, as against \$70,331 a year before; or a decrease in cash balance of \$20,331. We had on hand—granted applications of \$33,575 donations, and \$42,700 loans, or \$76,275; besides \$31,150 applied for, but not yet considered; or a total of moneys on hand of \$50,000, and total needed of \$107,425.

Surely we are not overburdened with money, and no herald need go forth to warn Israel to stop giving to Church Extension.

Our cash balance two years and a half ago was nearly \$105,000.

November 1, 1885, our granted applications would have left only \$6,460 in General Account, and would have overdrawn the Loan Fund by \$32,955.

Add to these two the applications on file and not yet considered, and we have an overdraft on General Account of \$4,140, and on Loan Fund of \$53,500, or a total overdraft on both lines of about \$58,000.

Surely the time to stop giving moneys to this cause has not yet come, and we are not in any danger from having "too much money."

There was during 1885 a loss from Conference collections of \$17,217, largely the result of these rumors, and of having counted during 1884 special gifts of sums ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 in Conference collections. In addition, the Frontier Fund lost nearly \$8,000, making a total of \$25,000 of apparent loss.

The Interest Account, however, earned us an increase of \$5,539, and the increase from other sources brought our net loss down to \$7,707. But at the same time we aided eleven more churches than during the previous year.

Meanwhile the emergencies of our field were constantly growing. The new States and Territories were constantly crying for increased help, as the new fields must be entered promptly, or we must permanently suffer loss. New openings in the South and the South-west have demanded enlarged liberality from our Board. Missouri alone, as the result of new lines of railway, needed a score of churches on the frontier plan; and Arkansas was scarcely less importunate. The great empires of Kansas, Nebraska, Dakota, and Minnesota needed more than double the help we could give. Many county seats in Western Kansas, Nebraska, and Central Dakota were destitute of churches, and needed help from an empty treasury.

The loss of nearly \$8,000 from the Frontier Fund meant the loss of thirty-two frontier churches.

The loss from the collections of 1885 of over \$17,000 gave us from these two causes a total loss of \$25,000, or a loss equal to one hundred churches on the frontier of the great South and West.

Take all the Methodist churches of Philadelphia, put them

in line, and burn them up in a single night: then you commence feebly to realize what it means for Church Extension to lose a hundred churches. And even this only partly states the calamity. The Philadelphia churches could be partly replaced by their insurance, and if the Methodist homes were not destroyed, in five years' time the generous Methodists of Philadelphia would have replaced every church destroyed with a building even more beautiful than the one lost. But these losses on the frontier we cannot replace. They were churches to be built for struggling communities without any church building, communities lost to Methodism by our delay; or communities where the golden opportunity for planting churches has passed by, while our treasury was impoverished by the mistaken cry of "too much money for Church Extension."

Shall we burn up another hundred churches during 1886?

Our losses were certainly not the result of poverty in the Church, but are directly traceable to failure to take any collection for our cause.

During 1885, 2,437 churches gave nothing to this cause. Nearly six thousand more gave only small collections, and over half of these gave so little that the fair conclusion would be that the pastors did not take any collection, but gave small sums out of their own pockets. Only twenty-three per cent. of our churches raised \$10 or over, while at least sixty per cent. really took no collection. If these sixty per cent. had faithfully taken collections, we should have had a large increase in our resources, and a great advance in our work.

Our Annual Report closing Nov. 1, 1885, includes the losses which the Annual Conference reported in the spring of 1886; so that it is only fair to say that the shrinkage of \$10,000 shown in the statistics of two or three large Conferences had already been anticipated in our own reports, and is not additional to what was reported at the November meeting of the General Committee.

It was not to be expected that the special gifts of the meeting in the Academy of Music in May, 1884, could be duplicated every year. Chaplain McCabe's transfer left the Church Extension cause without an Assistant Secretary for eighteen months, and it is certain that no one could have fully filled his place

during that time. But is it not very remarkable that in spite of rumors of too much money, and the loss of a brilliant Secretary, a comparison of the receipts of the Treasurer for 1885 with those of 1883 shows a loss of less than \$2,000 on General Account?

Much of the success in keeping up the finances is due to the labors of the Corresponding Secretary, by voice and pen, in presenting the cause, and in creating revenue through sale of architectural plans and by other means.

The tide again flows toward us. The Spring Conferences in the West, with two slight exceptions, have already advanced over last year, and have paid over the money to the Treasurer.

The actual receipts of money from Conference collections of the entire Church for seven months, beginning Nov. 1, 1884, compared with six months and two thirds, commencing Nov. 1, 1885, show a net gain of nearly \$5,000, with eleven days to hear from. Four other sources of revenue also make a gain, assuring us of a handsome advance. If the pastors of the Fall Conferences would immediately order the song service, and give us a separate collection in each charge, we would almost certainly double our donations to the frontier and to the poor in every part of the Republic.

The pastors, on whom the obligation is placed by our Discipline to present and guard this interest, could rally the churches to meet these crying emergencies of the South and West.

If one half the ministers would faithfully present this cause, and inspire their congregations as they should, we might double the volume of our annual work in a single year.

THE BAPTIST ANNIVERSARIES were held this year in Asbury Park, N. J., May 24-31, and were largely attended by prominent members of the denomination from all parts of the country. The subject of Home Missions was considered on the fourth day. The report for the year showed the total receipts of the Society to have been \$382,314 67, of which \$27,897 09 were for the Church Edifice Department, \$19,280 88 being available for gifts to churches, and the remainder belonging in the Loan Fund. A large map of the United States, similar to our own which Chaplain McCabe

used to exhibit, hung over the platform with the motto in large letters, "NORTH AMERICA FOR CHRIST." To this "let all the people say, Amen," and give and work accordingly.

A tabulated statement, covering a period of *six years*, shows that *the average receipts per annum* for that period for the Church Edifice Department have been,

On "Benevolent Fund".....	\$24,555
And on Loan Fund.....	38,258
The average of loans returned have been.....	10,645
And the average of interest collected.....	6,177

In 1881, the Loan Fund amounted to \$238,985, but by consent of the donors, over \$100,000 of that amount has been transferred to the "Benevolent Fund," which is available for gifts. The capital remaining in the Loan Fund is \$136,158, and that in the Benevolent Fund is reported at \$133,840.

The average number of churches aided during the last six years falls short of 90 per annum, the lowest number in any one year being 62, and the highest 113.

For the last year the churches receiving donations have had an average of \$330, and those receiving loans, \$450.

Seven reasons are given for a more generous support of this work, the last of which is :

Because, The work of building mission chapels ranks in importance with that of sending missionaries to preach the Gospel. With no house in which to gather a congregation, prayer-meeting, or Sunday-school the missionary often labors almost in vain. With a house in which to gather a regular congregation, the Church becomes self-sustaining in half the time that it otherwise would, and thus it is economy to give for the erection of chapels on our mission fields. Hence the Society urges the churches to help us by making at least some contribution, regularly and speedily, to this special department of its work.

PRESBYTERIAN.—The following from the report of the General Assembly's Standing Committee on Church Erection shows the work of our Presbyterian brethren for the past year :

The gross receipts of the year have been \$116,578 24, which is only about \$4,000 less than that of last year. But it is cause for regret that during the year the contributions from the churches have fallen off very considerably. The cause of this decrease is not surprising when we take into consideration the loud cries which have been heard concerning the heavy debts of other boards, but it is hoped that the contributions of the

churches this year will be so large as to prove that this Board lies very close to the hearts of our people.

The whole amount contributed *by the churches* last year was \$46,396 46. This year that sum should, at the very least, be doubled; and to carry on this work still more effectively the Board ought to have for the current year not less than \$200,000. Surely the membership of our churches ought not to think that they have done their whole duty to this Board when they have given to it only 7 cents apiece in the whole year. It appears that out of our 6,093 churches reported to the last Assembly there are 3,284 that failed to take up any collection for this cause. This fact calls for special emphasis, inasmuch as many of these churches are under special obligations to this Board.

The regular grants made during the year have been 144, and the special grants intrusted to the Board and distributed by it have been 39—in all, 183. The whole amount that has been appropriated for churches, chapels, and manses during the year is \$66,846 02.

The Board expresses its disappointment that its report is not as cheerful as that of last year; but, as it touchingly says, “how much sorer the disappointment to those poor churches who, for want of sufficient aid, have been obliged to drag through another winter without shelter from the storm or a Christian home for their families.” Such words ought to touch the heart of this Assembly, and they should stimulate every pastor and every elder to see to it that this cause will be laid before the people, and that the opportunity will be given them to contribute to its support.

The value of the work done by this Board can scarcely be overestimated. The building of houses of worship is only a little less important than the grand work done by our home missionaries. What would our home missionaries do when here and there they gather together a little flock and organize them into churches were it not that this Board comes to their aid? Without churches in which to preach, without homes in which to live, what would these faithful home missionaries do? Indeed, the work done by this Board is only another phase of the work of home missions; hence this Board may very properly appeal to every friend and to every lover of home missions to aid it in carrying on its most beneficent work.

The care which this Board has always taken to guard the property of the Church intrusted to it against loss by fire should receive our hearty commendation. It holds 1,700 policies, protecting property amounting to \$1,183,664 83.

The Board has carried out the instructions of the last Assembly touching the work of building manses, and in order to do this it has secured the necessary amendment to its charter. The funds for this object have so far been contributed by a few generous friends who appreciate its importance. The thanks of this Assembly are due to them, and your committee expresses the hope that the number of such friends of this cause may be greatly multiplied. The rules regarding the management of the manse fund are found in the Annual Report, and attention is called to them.—*Presbyterian Record*, July, 1886.

FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY.

DIRECTORY.

CORPORATE NAME: "THE FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH."

OFFICE: METHODIST BOOK CONCERN, 190 WEST FOURTH STREET, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

WORK: THE MENTAL AND MORAL ELEVATION OF FREEDMEN AND OTHERS IN THE SOUTH.

Bequests of Money and Devises of Land: In giving money or devising lands by will or otherwise to the Society, let one of the following forms be used :

Form of Will in giving Money.

I give and bequeath to "THE FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH," a corporation under the laws of the State of Ohio, the sum of

and the receipt of the Treasurer thereof shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors for the same.

Form of a Devise of Land to said Board.

I give and bequeath to "THE FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH," a corporation under the laws of Ohio, the following land and premises, that is to say :

to have and to hold the same, with the appurtenances, to the said Board, its successors and assigns forever.

ANNUITIES: Many persons have money which they desire to appropriate to benevolent work, who need the income of it while they live. This Society will cheerfully receive such funds, and insure the payment of an annual income during the life of the donor, amounting to a legal interest. In this way an income is made sure during life, and at death the gift goes without diversion, as the donor desired.

A WORD TO PASTORS: Our pastors are earnestly requested to present the claims of this Society to persons in their congregations who may consult them, or to whom they may feel free to speak on the subject of disposing of their money or property for benevolent purposes.

REPORTS, TRACTS, ETC.: Any pastor or friend desiring reports, tracts, etc., giving information on the work of the Society, will be supplied free of cost on application to the office.

THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, *Rev. R. S. Rust, D.D.*, has charge of the correspondence and business of the Board of Managers. Communications should be addressed to him, at No. 190 West Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

ASSISTANT CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, *Rev. J. C. Hartzell, D.D.* His address is No. 190 West Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

TREASURER, *Rev. Earl Cranston, D.D.*, address, Methodist Book Concern, Cincinnati, O.

ASSISTANT TREASURER, *J. M. Phillips, Esq.*, address, Methodist Book Concern, 805 Broadway, New York.

THE NEW SOUTH.

BY HON. JOHN SHERMAN, U. S. SENATOR.

LET me state briefly the conditions upon which the new South can secure the greatest amount of good for its people—conditions that can be accepted by men who served in either army (who wore the blue or the gray), both Confederate and Union soldiers. If these elemental conditions are accepted fairly, as I hope they will be, by the South, the Union will be complete without either North or South or sectional or party lines.

First, there must be recognized in every part of this country, without respect to race or color or condition, the equality of rights and privileges between man and man. This fundamental principle is now engrafted upon our Constitution. It can never be erased. There it stands; and although, from time to time, parties and men may refuse to observe the spirit of that great provision in the Constitution, there it will stand, and in time—and I trust a not far distant time—it will be recognized by every man and woman and child in this broad land, white or black, North or South. It is not safe for it to be otherwise. A right plainly given by the Constitution and the laws, withheld or denied, is an uneasy grievance which will never rest. And, therefore, the time is not far distant when those now strongly actuated by the prejudices and feelings of race will recognize this important doctrine. They will feel that it is for their own safety and for their own good. Blacks and whites are spread all over the South. They cannot be separated without the fiat of the Almighty, and such a fiat has never been issued except once, when the Israelites marched out from slavery in Egypt; and it took them about forty years to travel a short way. One third of the population of the South is of the Negro race, and two thirds of the white race. Whatever may have been thought of the wisdom of the policy of emancipation, it was the logical result of the war, has been finally adopted, and will never be changed. It is idle to discuss schemes to separate these races except by voluntary and individual movement; but they will live and increase, generation after generation, the common occupants of the new South. What is needed above all else is to secure the harmonious living and working

of these two elements, to secure to both the peaceful enjoyment of their rights and privileges. So long as any portion or race or class of the people of the new South are deprived of the rights which the Constitution and law confer upon them, there will be unrest and danger. All history teaches us that those who suffer a wrong will, sooner or later, find means to correct and avenge it.

There is another condition that the new South must find out. The system of production which was admirably adapted to the old South will not answer for the new South. Under the old institution of slavery they raised a few leading crops—cotton, rice, sugar, and tobacco—but not much else. Why? Because these articles could be raised by the labor of slaves.

Now, in the new South, it is manifest that the chief sources of wealth and prosperity lie in the development of their natural resources, in the production of coal and iron and other minerals and phosphates, and in the manufacture of cotton and other textile fabrics, and in the development of railroads and other means of communication. In other words, they will find it to their interest to adopt and compete with the North in all its industries and employments. That this can be successfully done is shown in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia. All the States touching on the Allegheny range have facilities for varied manufactures fully equal to any of the Northern States, and with some advantages as to climate and labor. A diversity of production will be wealth to the South, break down its exclusion, open its doors to immigration, and assimilate its institutions with those of the North. The North is ready for this competition. Although the South will probably deprive us of some of the markets we now have, yet no man in the North will complain; but, on the contrary, we have in the North millions of dollars in capital to invest, and millions of hardy men to work, North or South, wherever they can get fair wages for a fair day's work. When this competition comes we will have a diversity of industry, and a country rich in developed, as well as in undeveloped, resources. This is the second great want of the new South, which I trust their able men may bring about.

What the new South wants now more than all else is educa-

tion! education!! education!!! The statistics with which we have been made familiar recently in the debate in the Senate, of illiteracy in the South, are appalling, but not much more so than was the condition of the Western States fifty years ago. The Negroes being slaves were, of necessity, without education. The great mass of the white people were in the same condition, not because it was desired in the South, but because, from the sparseness of the population and the existence of plantations instead of farms, it was difficult to establish a system of public schools. A change in this respect cannot be brought about suddenly, but it is apparent that every Southern State appreciates the importance of education for both white and black. It is the bounden duty of the national government to extend the aid of its large resources. If the action of the Senate is sanctioned by the House, and fairly and justly executed by the people of the Southern States, there need be no danger from the ignorance of the next generation. I believe that these conditions will be the solution of the troubles of the South, and make a great step on the road to prosperity and union in the South.

A few words in conclusion. It is not merely common school education in the South that is needed, but it is higher education. It is all the learning of the schools, all that science has taught, all that religion teaches, all that medicine has found in its alchemy, all the justice which the law points out and seeks to administer; the South wants opportunity for that higher education which cannot be obtained from common schools, but which exists in no country except where common schools abound. It wants in its midst the places where the active, leading young men of the South can gather in colleges and universities, and there gain that higher education which prepares them to be leaders among men.

CORNER-STONE LAYING AT NEW ORLEANS.

The erection of a new building at New Orleans has been begun. The foundation is complete, and the builders are at work and will go forward as Bishop Mallalieu and Dr. Hartzell raise the money.

The corner-stone was laid June 9, and it was a glad day.

Speaking of this event, the "Western Christian Advocate" says:

The most interesting feature of the glad day was the cash offering brought by the colored people. The roll was called of our churches in Louisiana, and fully one half responded, either through their pastor or presiding elder, until nearly one thousand dollars cash was laid on the table, and a further subscription made of \$1,000 by the same people, to be paid in the early fall. The best results of benevolent work are those which aid people to help themselves. One could but wish the whole Church could have witnessed that scene. One good old sister counted out ten dollars, and as dollar after dollar fell into his hands, Dr. Hartzell said: "Sister, is this not too much for you to give?" Her reply was: "Nothing is too much when I promise God to give it to him." Another aged colored woman put down \$10, and one who supports herself by hard work laid down \$25. Several of the poorest churches, under the lead of heroic young men, brought or sent \$20. One brother sent \$10 from Pineville, La., on Red River. Near by his church is a national cemetery, where thousands of boys in blue lie buried. Another brother sent \$15 from a very weak charge. He wrote: "Brother Hartzell, you will know how I have to get along when I tell you myself and family have to live sometimes on a dollar a week, and sometimes on seventy-five cents. This is a hard place, dear brother. The only way the minister has been getting along here is by giving suppers, and they are run into the ground. You must pray for me." Such heroism in self-help deserves, and will have, the blessing of God and the commendation of men.

QUARTER OF A MILLION.

BY DR. RUST.

We need \$250,000 for the prosecution of the work of the Freedmen's Aid Society this year: \$150,000 for the regular school work, and \$100,000 for the erection of buildings. We have asked for a larger amount of money than heretofore, in view of the enlarged work among the whites undertaken by our Society. The fearful amount of illiteracy that prevails in this section of the country, the intimate connection that exists between ignorance and crime, the value of intelligence in developing the resources of the land, the influence of schools in preserving the liberties of the people, the grand opportunity for usefulness which here presents itself to Methodism, urge us to enter this field with renewed enthusiasm and increased appropriations. This, in the judgment of the committee appointed to estimate the expenditures for the year, is the small-

est amount that will enable the Society to perform the work committed to it by the highest authority of the Church.

So important is the pastor in the administration of the affairs of the Church that our benevolences become a failure without the hearty co-operation of the pastors. Our great need at this crisis is a full presentation of our Freedmen's work to all our people by the pastors. Facts and arguments will awaken interest and quicken liberality. Our pastors, thoroughly prepared, could in a single service so present the claims of this cause as to raise every dollar of the apportionment. We are not unmindful of the burdens and sacrifices of these servants of Christ connected with their charges ; but, in view of these obligations to God and their poor brethren in the South, we implore them to present the claims of the Freedmen's Aid Society to their people, and raise a liberal collection in its behalf.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

BY SENATOR BLAIR.

1. The general education of the people is indispensable to their happiness and to the existence of the Republic. Ignorance in Alabama or Oregon is as dangerous to the whole country as in Massachusetts or Kansas. A fatal disease is as dangerous in one part of the body as in another.

2. The Southern States have one third the population of the whole country, and, although taxing themselves more heavily than the North in proportion to their ability to pay taxes, they have only one sixth of the money annually expended in the whole country for schools. In six of the Southern States the illiterates are about fifty per cent. of the population over ten years of age.

3. Notwithstanding the earnest efforts admitted to have been made by the Southern States, since the census of 1880, to educate their children, and although Northern emigration and movements of capital have led to marked improvement in some localities, as in Florida, which is becoming a Northern State, still the improvement in schools, on the whole, hardly more than keeps pace with the increase of population. The total expenditure of the country for schools is at least \$85,-

000,000, of which not over \$17,000,000 is in the Southern States. In 1880 the total was \$77,000,000, and in the Southern States, \$12,500,000. Excluding Maryland, Missouri, and the District of Columbia, the Southern States have one tenth of the money and one fifth of the school population. Their school plant is poor, so that school-houses and furnishing and their teachers require very large extra expenditure in order that they may do the same work with the same amount of money.

THE NEGRO PROBLEM VIEWED FROM THE STAND-POINT OF OUR REPUBLIC.

The future of the Negroes in America is a serious problem, and is gathering about it a more tremendous importance each year as we are brought face to face with new phases of the question which is forcing itself on the attention of the Church and the State.

Unexpectedly emancipated from a cruel bondage of two hundred and fifty years, five years afterward made citizens in a great republic, three years later made voters, and endowed with all the privileges and rights of American citizenship, and all this responsibility thrust upon them with a bewildering suddenness and at a time when they were unprepared for it, has placed the freedmen in a most critical and perilous situation. Like God's ancient people when freed from Egyptian bondage, they entered a wilderness, but without a Moses or Joshua to lead them, or a priest or altar to teach them. Homeless, penniless, and friendless, they entered a mysterious desert searching for some "promised land" of which they had heard and dreamed, but of which they knew nothing. Like a vessel launched upon untried waters without a compass or rudder, and at the mercy of every varying wind and tide that swept them over these unknown waters, they drifted they knew not whither.

Through these strange wanderings an unseen hand has guided them, until to-day they rise up before us a new and important element in American society, and claiming at the hands of the government which wronged them, the people who oppressed them, equal rights and privileges with the best of us.

These privileges have been conferred upon them while the mass of them are painfully ignorant and degraded, and still bearing upon them the burden and taint of slavery. It was not to be expected that they could rise to the full enjoyment or even appreciation of the freedom in one generation. No race of men suddenly emancipated has ever done so. If the Negroes ever rise to the

FULL MANHOOD OF AMERICAN CITIZENS,

if they ever rise from their low moral condition to be freemen in Christ, we must help them. We must do this for our own sake and for their sake, for our country's sake and for the world's sake. We must shape their future, or they will largely shape ours. We must overtake the ignorance and heathenism in the South, which are now outgrowing the Gospel, and threatening to overwhelm our civilization and become the balance of power for evil to the whole republic. This question is for the State as well as the Church to consider.

Let us look at this question from the stand-point of the republic.

Ours is a republican government, the stability of whose institutions, we feel and confess, depends on the intelligence and virtue of its citizens. Illiteracy in a republic is a poisonous worm, which eats out the very vitals of the nation's life, and, coupled with moral corruption, must and will, sooner or later, undermine the government.

There are among the freedmen 1,420,000 voters, of whom 1,221,000 cannot read or write. The balance of power in eight Southern States, they control 75 of our 401 electoral votes, 61 of our 325 Congressmen, and 16 of 76 senators. Illiteracy is on the increase among them, the last ten years showing an increase of 300,000. Nearly a million and a half of men made voters before they could read, they were told to vote on the most difficult and complicated of all questions—questions of public policy, involving the interests of half a continent and of 50,000,000 of people. Such an experiment was never before made by any people, and is putting our government to a test to which no other government on earth has been put. The danger of this bold measure is by no means past,

but is to-day threatening the foundations of our free institutions.

In the darkest days of slavery, Longfellow wrote :

“There is a poor, blind Samson in the land,
Shorn of his strength and bound in bands of steel,
Who may, in some grim revel, raise his hand,
And shake the pillars of this commonweal
Till the vast temple of our liberties
A shapeless mass of wreck and rubbish lies.”

That same blind Samson is in the land to-day ; it is the Negro, uneducated, immoral, with a ballot in his hand. The ballot in the hands of the Negro is an official notice served on the nation at large, all sections and all parties of it, that the hand must be guided by an educated mind and controlled by an instructed conscience. Here is a new and important element, not taken into the account when the Constitution was framed, and it has been

WORKED INTO THE GOVERNMENT.

Will the foundation bear the new strain put upon it? When Congress appropriated money to complete the Washington monument, which had remained unfinished so long, it was found that the foundation was not strong enough to support the completed obelisk, and so a bottom had to be put under it, which was actually done ; not by lifting the structure, but by pick and spade a new foundation was rammed under it ; and now that grand obelisk, standing on a firmer foundation, has lifted its summit until it looks grandly down upon all pyramids, cathedrals, columns, and towers which men have built since the world began. So with our republic. Here is a new element to be worked in. A race of slaves has been emancipated and made citizens and voters. But the foundation cannot bear the weight of illiteracy placed upon it. It must be made stronger. We must put another under it—a foundation of morality and intelligence. We must educate and Christianize this new element of citizenship. We must do this to save the whole structure of society, and to secure the safety, not only of the new part of the edifice, but of that already built. The continuance of civil government depends

largely upon one condition not yet satisfied, namely, the education of these untaught voters. Do this, and our noble republic, like your completed obelisk at Washington, will rise higher into a purer atmosphere and clearer sunshine, and look grandly down on all other governments among the nations of the earth.

Educate and Christianize the Negroes ; give them their political and civil rights in reality, and not in name only, as is now the case. Open to them the avenues to the industrial and mechanical arts, and those to offices of honor and trust, and if they can win their way to positions among these by merit and worthy conduct, permit them to do so without let or hinderance from that wretched race prejudice which is now a disgrace to our religion and civilization, and you will at once solve what men are pleased to call the Negro problem.

They possess the elements of good citizenship. They are native-born Americans. There are no Italian papists among them, no French communists, no Irish plotters, no Russian nihilists, no German socialists, and no foreign anarchists. Whatever ideas they have of government are purely American. They gave the highest proof of their love of country when in the darkest hour of the Union's peril you called on them for help, and 100,000 of them rallied under the flag and maintained the cause of freedom on eighty-six bloody battle-fields.

Their numbers make them an important factor in the future of our country. At the close of the war of the revolution there were 700,000 Negroes in the land. When emancipated, there were 3,938,000 ; and now, only twenty-three years after,

THERE ARE SEVEN MILLIONS.

We were told when they were emancipated that they would "die out" and pass away as the Indians are doing—that they could not take care of themselves and would starve to death. Have they died out ? At the above rate of increase and with 500 births among them every day, the prospect of getting rid of them is not particularly hopeful. And as to starving to death, the last census shows that they have raised more cotton in the last twenty years than in any twenty years previous. They are not likely to starve while they raise more cotton each year than the year previous.

I was in the South during the great civil war, and witnessed the making of various flags to take the place of the stars and stripes. One seemed to please the committee appointed to select a flag for the Confederacy, and, as the story goes, was submitted to Jeff Davis for his approval. The design represented a Southern scene, and conspicuous in the foreground were some bales of cotton, with a Negro asleep on one of them. Davis at once rejected it, saying, "If that nigger wakes up it will be bad for the South." Well, sir, he has waked up, 7,000,000 strong; he has waked up an American citizen and a freeman, with 1,500,000 ballots in his hand; he has waked up, with a list of taxable property behind him worth \$91,000,000; he has waked up in our best schools and colleges, where in some cases he has taken honors over his white competitors; he has waked up with 108 newspapers, printed and published and edited by colored men; he has waked up in the Legislature of any Southern State, in the Hall of Representatives and Senate chamber of the American Congress. Yes, sir, in poetic justice he has waked up in the very seat of that arch rebel who has so lately been flouting his foul treason in the face of the forbearing government, a truer patriot and statesman than he; and the day may come when he will wake up in yonder White House, where Washington and Lincoln and Garfield stood.—*Presbyterian Record*, July, 1886.

A REMNANT OF SLAVERY.

The "South-western Christian Advocate" has a column for "LOST FRIENDS." The following is a sample:

I am anxious to learn the whereabouts of my mother. Her name was Sucky Tranton, and used to belong to the Widow Tranton in South Alabama. She lived at the Cross Roads, near Bridgeville, Alabama. She fell to Mrs. Mary Umphrey. My mother's husband was named Bob Tranton. Mother had six children. One, Frances Tranton, went to Jim Tranton. I saw her during the war, but have not seen her since. Brother Gabriel died in this county. One sister, Arrene Tranton, was sold to Mrs. Betty Steanson. Next sister was named Catherine, and she went with Mary Ella Tranton. I was at that time Ellen Tranton, and Nancy Hines bought me, or I fell to her. I then went to Noxubee, Miss., twelve miles from Macon, Miss., and three miles from Memphis, Ala. That is the last time I heard from them. I am now at Marvell, Ark., and the wife of Rev. A. L. Tate. Any one knowing their whereabouts will please address Rev. Albert L. Tate.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

CHURCH AID FOR STUDENTS.

EXTRACT OF AN ESSAY READ AT THE PROVIDENCE, R. I., DISTRICT PREACHERS' MEETING, JUNE 9, 1886, BY PROF. O. W. SCOTT, PRINCIPAL OF THE EAST GREENWICH ACADEMY, EAST GREENWICH, R. I.

THE essay from which the following extract is taken opened with quotations from the letter of an objector to the system of encouraging students by pecuniary aid. Among other things, the objector said :

I have doubted seriously whether more blessing than curse resulted from our educational beneficence. After living most of the time at school for two years and more on oat-meal, corn-meal, crackers and milk, and molasses, and getting through fairly well, I am not so much impressed with the sensational tales of student poverty as are some.

Next followed the subjoined testimonies of several presidents of colleges and principals of seminaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as to the influence and propriety of aiding needy and worthy students :

(1.) From the president of one of our principal universities :

"To all those aided whom I have ever known personally, the loans have been a very great blessing, an almost absolutely indispensable aid ; and I have never known the money to be undervalued or misapplied."

(2.) The second is from the principal of a Middle State Conference seminary. He writes :

"I am sorry to say that some of those with us who have been helped by the Educational Society have not seemed to appreciate it. Some have been very worthy and will prove to be a blessing to the Church. Others are not in the ministry, and they seem to have forgotten their obligation to return the money in the event of a change in their plans. I do not think it has always been the highest-minded and the worthiest who have applied. It is my opinion that the system of such loans should be hedged in by greater safeguards, if possible."

(3.) The third testimony is from an experienced principal in a Middle State Conference seminary, and is as follows :

"There is a tendency, I think, in those who receive aid, especially in larger sums, from an educational society while studying for the ministry to lose their independence, also to be too free with the money thus received.

However, as here managed, I have not known a case of improper conduct in these matters for the past ten years. I always impress upon the young men the importance of the affair, and, besides, they all know to a certainty that I will never recommend a young man who would squander such funds. The process is beset with difficulties, but, in general terms, I would say that the money is productive of very great good."

(4.) The fourth witness is the head of a like school in the same State. He says:

"I have about twelve students aided by the Board of Education, and in all cases the aid is doing great good to those students, and no evil. . . . God bless the Board, and God bless Dr. Kidder for the timely aid given to these poor and noble young men and women!"

(5.) The fifth and sixth are from two New England principals. One writes:

"For the most part—indeed, I think of but one exception—the students here and in the college at ———, who have been assisted out of the educational funds of the Church, have been worthy men and women who have made good use of the aid afforded them. I do know that any aided by the New England Educational Society have been in any respect unworthy. There is, of course, a great liability to abuse or to waste in such a beneficence, and its application needs to be watched with scrupulous care. But I cannot help thinking that this help is of untold value to the Church. I think of two or three cases where, but for this timely help, the Church would have sustained an incalculable loss."

(6.) The other testifies:

"I have yet to see the first instance of improper use of educational loans or of harm to the recipients. In every case the student could not have remained in school without such help. I believe most heartily in this method of aiding young people, so long as those who recommend them for loans are faithful to their trust."

[REMARK.—On the part of the Board of Education, it is proper to acknowledge that in the infancy of its operations some mistakes were made, and that some parties received aid who have since proved themselves unworthy and ungrateful. The facts, as shown by the records of the Board, prove that this, in nearly if not all cases, occurred through the lack of proper judgment or faithfulness on the part of teachers. Of late years, the most scrupulous care has been observed to profit by past experiences and to increase the safeguards under which this trust of the Church is administered. Now no loan is made without the recommendation of a Quarterly Conference (direct or implied), including the pastor, Sunday-school superintendent, and other responsible acquaintances of the party applying. To this must be added the personal indorsement of the head teacher of each student aided. This indorsement must be repeated in detail twice a year. If any one can suggest additional or better safeguards, they will be gratefully acknowledged by the

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.]

To the foregoing statements from educators were added a few from some of the young men who were aided while pursuing their studies. The subjoined were from ministers now preaching in various Annual Conferences :

"The loans have been very helpful to me."

"I greatly appreciate the aid rendered me, and hope not only to repay the amount loaned, but also to help the Board of Education."

"I take pleasure in honoring the account. The loan was a great help to me in a time of need."

"It was a blessing to me in times of embarrassment to receive the help, and among the recruits coming on there are many who need it as badly as I did."

"The Board of Education is doing a grand work."

"The money loaned was a great accommodation. Gratefully appreciating the work of the Board, I am thankfully yours."

I now give the words of the topic assigned me : "Ought the Church to aid young men preparing for the Gospel ministry?"

I reply :

(1.) She ought, on the basis of the golden rule.

(2.) The Church ought, in view of the fact that she rejoices in the broadening and upbuilding of Christ's kingdom. That means her own peace and prosperity as the visible expression of that kingdom on earth. Such enlargement depends greatly upon a well-endowed ministry, which means that our young men should have sufficient mental training "to illustrate and enforce Christian truth and to refute error."

Could they secure this intellectual furnishing readily without aid, we would say, by all means, let them do it. We have no desire to "coddle" young men and carry them, to the lessening of personal ambition and proper self-respect.

Some of them getting aid could doubtless pull through alone, but (a) at a sacrifice of time, involving great delay, and (b) also of good health, through a lack of proper nourishment in an attempt to live, by boarding themselves, on a fraction of what it ought to cost. In one Conference seminary, with which I am familiar, the weekly expense was not over (and often under) a dollar, and was known to drop as low as fifty cents per week in several cases, and even to twenty-five cents per week in a few cases.

Here is a fact for which I can vouch : About twenty-five years ago a young man of excellent natural ability attended school at the ——— Conference seminary. He took a cheap room in a building devoted to the interests of self-boarders. He lived largely on corn-meal pudding and molasses or milk, and seemed to endure the ordeal quite well. He prepared for college, entered ——— University, and continued the same mode of living, not only making his own corn "mush," but boiling it in such quantity as

to sell it by the bowl or plate to some of his impecunious fellow-students. Thus he drove quite a trade, making sufficient to pay for his own share. Time passed on, but after a certain period his all-enduring stomach refused to do duty. The result was dyspepsia in its most aggravated form. After graduation, and the entering of our Southern work, his gastric condition did not improve; and after an heroic struggle for life and lost health, he passed away, a premature death, a physical sacrifice.

A successful minister in ——— Conference writes me as follows :

"I knew of some (at ——— Seminary) who lived at the 'poor dying rate' of less than one dollar per week." And he adds, "May God forgive those who never contribute to the funds of our educational societies!"

A distinguished writer on physiology and hygiene says that "wholesome food (as well as needed rest) may be regarded as essential to a sound working condition of mind and body." Again he says, "In the lack of the means of subsistence, the health of the body is liable to suffer, the mind loses much of its working power, and life is deprived of a large portion of its utility." Surely, if the young men called of God, as we are impressed the great majority of these are, cannot advance without help, except at a sacrifice of health, the Church ought to aid them.

But some one may say, "Many under very straitened circumstances have pulled through alone, and have done well in after life." Very true, where they have possessed an iron constitution; but may it not be pertinent to ask, Might they not now, in all probability, be doing, in active life, better work, had they been assisted; not only because of better diet, but in view of relief of mind as to a condition straitened in the present and doubtful as to the future?

(3.) We ought to aid this work of benevolence in recognition of the favor which the great Head of the Church has shown to societies whose declared object is to assist the poor but pious and promising youth that God has committed to the care of the Church.

These societies have not been organized except after the most prayerful reflection. Their spirit and success prove that they are as surely of God as other connectional societies of the Church. Besides, they are in favor with the people, for they are sustained.

I digress slightly here to call your attention to the pleasant fact that the Methodist Episcopal Church puts forth a friendly hand to aid the young minister to prepare for usefulness, and to help the old to comforts in the days of advancing age and increasing physical weakness; thus preparing the young and pensioning the old. In both lines we ought to do more, and, as our system becomes perfected, may hope to accomplish that result.

We endow the *school*, why not in a measure the *scholar*? The school is important, but without scholars counts for but little. What Dr. Kidder said in 1882 is essentially true to-day, namely, "One of the most pressing and all-pervading wants in the whole range of our educational enterprises

is that of students who need a little aid to render their own endeavors efficacious in securing an education."

Let us not forget that most ministers are not called from families of wealth, but from the middle classes, who are not in such financial circumstances as to guarantee but little aid to their children.

The secretary of the New England Educational Society has well said, in his last report: "Most of those called to the Gospel ministry are poor. This is God's pleasure. Hence all denominations, in some way, aid candidates in their preparatory studies. These young men propose to give their lives to a non-lucrative vocation. The Church is organized in the spirit and purpose of benevolence, else it is not Christ-like; and it is especially obligated to help forward those who are to bear the standard of the cross to regions beyond and to coming generations."

Here is another familiar but, possibly, forgotten thought, namely, That the idea of loans gives the necessary and immediate aid, and yet allows the recipient to maintain proper self-respect, while, in view of a future repayment, it is a constant appeal for economy and check upon extravagance.

The secretary of the Board of Education well says: "This policy, as a golden mean between doing nothing for ministerial candidates who have to struggle with poverty and other embarrassments, and doing too much for them, commends itself as a happy solution of a problem that has seriously embarrassed some Churches; nor is it prejudiced by the fact that the Board permits and encourages the payment of loans by means of collections and subscriptions secured for its treasury."

It is safe to say that among ministers, with few exceptions, those who fought the battle alone, receiving no aid, are most in favor of granting judicious assistance to the young men of the Church now coming forward, and heartily co-operate to this end.

Let us, then, be united, earnest, and unyielding, in advancing this deserving charity year by year.

The above subject is commended to other District Conferences, preachers' meetings, and similar gatherings for full discussion. Persons appointed or proposing to treat it thoroughly are invited to apply to the Educational Secretary at 805 Broadway, New York, for full information on any point concerning which they may be in doubt. The importance of the great educational movement now in progress in our Church, under the auspices and encouragement of the Board of Education, is only just beginning to be properly appreciated.

ACTION OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

JAPAN.

We recommend the observance of Children's Day as prescribed by our Church, and urge that children should be carefully taught their relation to the education of the future ministers of our Church.

NORTH INDIA.

The committee makes mention with great pleasure of the growth of interest in the observance of Children's Day throughout the Mission. Every station in our Conference except one observed the day and took up collections for the cause of education. Rs. 408.5.0 were realized this year for this cause. The children, irrespective of religion, universally like the day and its exercises, and perhaps no money for any cause is more gladly given. It needs only our united efforts to make it one of the brightest and best days of all the year, and no one can predict the material good that will ensue from the general and zealous observance of this day throughout the Mission, to the cause of education. Your committee therefore suggest that as far as possible the second Sunday in March be universally observed in our Conference as Children's Day.

GEORGIA.

We are especially indebted to the Board of Education for the aid rendered our students at both our seminaries, and trust that these boards will continue their care over us.

Resolved, That we cordially respond to the circular of Dr. D. P. Kidder in regard to the Children's Day, and the collection thereon, and earnestly pray both preachers and people to observe it and to support the Board of Education.

LOUISIANA.

Board of Education.

Resolved, 1. That we will in all our charges observe Children's Day—the second Sunday in June—and will take up, in connection with our Sunday-schools, a collection.

2. Further, that we return our sincere thanks to Dr. Kidder for the liberal aid he has given us in the way of donations and loans to help needy students.

BALTIMORE.

"The Report of the Board of Education," by its secretary, Dr. Kidder, shows that it is constantly increasing its resources and benefactions. The valuable work it is doing merits our most earnest approval and co-operation.

We recommend the universal observance of Children's Day; and that whenever practicable our pastors be advised to take the public educational collection on Children's Day, and all contributions of the day, unless otherwise designated by the donors, shall be equally divided between the objects named in §§ 5 and 6, ¶ 262, of the Discipline.

DELAWARE.

The Committee on Education would report that there is great cause for encouragement and gratification among our people on account of the rising and growing sentiment among citizens of all classes in favor of the education of our race, and cause for especial gratitude to God for the interest which the Methodist Episcopal Church still manifests on this subject. The Board of Education, in its worthy and widening work, makes no distinction of color in the distribution of its benefits, and many students of color have been aided by loans from the General and Children's Day Fund, and we urge upon all our pastors the importance of the observance of Children's Day and an intelligent presentation of the subject of education to their people.

PHILADELPHIA.

The Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church has become a recognized power for good, as acknowledged by hundreds of students, and by every institute of learning in the Church. In laying her hands upon the power of childhood and utilizing the same for the advancement of her educational interests, the Board of Education has adopted a policy whose exceeding wisdom will be emphasized more and more as the years go by. We rejoice at the constantly increasing popularity of Children's Day, and earnestly recommend the observance of the same in all our churches according to the plan originally proposed by the Discipline of the Church.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.

Much credit is due the Board of Education, which in all its operations is so thoroughly adapted to the great work in which it is engaged. We urge upon the churches heartily to observe Children's Day, for it has become one of the permanent features of our denominational work. Our deep conviction is, that while the Church ought to reach the million line, and our offerings for Church Extension and Freedmen's Aid should increase, our EDUCATIONAL TREASURY *ought to have equal prominence*, and an equal amount be poured into it.

NEW JERSEY.

Board of Education.

Resolved, 1. That the increasing popularity and efficacy of the Board of Education is a cause for gratitude throughout the whole Church.

2. That we recognize the great liberality with which the Board has aided students from within the bounds of this Conference, at Pennington Seminary, and other institutions of the Church, as a substantial reason for larger efforts in behalf of the Children's Educational Fund on next Children's Day.

3. That throughout our work we will endeavor to enlist our several committees on education to do their full duty in connection with the

Children's Day movement and in accordance with the suggestions of a recent circular of the Board of Education.

NEWARK.

Board of Education.

The work of this great society "points to the appropriate outcome of the great system of instruction commenced in our more than 20,000 Sunday-schools. It is the legitimate counterpart of our Church Extension enterprise. The task of building the numerous churches called for by our growing population would be shorn of its chief hopefulness if our schools were not educating an adequate supply of ministerial candidates to occupy the pulpits of the churches erected."

The receipts for this fiscal year have been nearly \$39,000. This money has been disbursed, not in gifts, but in loans, to students in some ninety different institutions of learning, the largest loan not exceeding \$100. The Board has during the current school year aided twenty students at Hackettstown to the amount of \$1,000, and about the same number at Drew Seminary to the amount of \$1,550—a total of \$2,550. Its receipts from the Newark Conference during 1885 were \$803.

Children's Day has enlarged the area of its observance, and increased in interest and appreciation, and is yielding golden fruitage. The Board of Education has proved itself a valuable agency in the development of interest in the great cause it represents, and in the collection and judicious distribution of the offerings of the people for Christian education.

NEW YORK.

The Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church practically unites our Sabbath-schools with our literary and theological institutions, with the result of stimulating a desire for thorough education, and aiding young men to secure it without damage to their manliness. Children's Day has become popular with our people, and so developed this work as to have firmly won the heart of the Church as well as the children. Nearly all of our institutions have been encouraged by the aid furnished to these students from the treasury of this Board. This efficient agency for Christian education is doing much to elevate the standard of Christian culture, and to press it to the front rank among the forces for evangelizing the world.

NEW YORK EAST.

The management of the Board of Education is worthy of all praise. The wisdom of its economy is every-where manifest. Its record since 1868 is unsurpassed by any similar organization. Possessed at that time of \$65,000, it has since distributed to needy students \$183,000, and has nevertheless increased its principal threefold, having now on hand \$188,000. More than all other agencies it has awakened interest in education among our people. Its unity of purpose, from the Sunday-school to the university, challenges our admiration. Its proffer of aid stimulates ambition

among our youth, and fosters manliness by its plan of assistance. Worthy of special note is the valuable work rendered by this Board in gathering complete statistical information concerning all the educational institutions of our denomination. To the untiring efforts of the efficient Corresponding Secretary, Rev. D. P. Kidder, D.D.—a man honored by all, and adding honor to any position which he occupies—is due the present unequaled prosperity of this Society.

We rejoice at the growing popularity of Children's Day, and urge upon our churches a strict adherence to its original purpose, and recommend the prompt transmission to the Treasurer of the Board of Education of all funds raised on that day.

NEW ENGLAND.

The Board of Education.

This Board reports an income for the year closing Nov. 11, 1885, of \$38,852 70, and a disbursement of \$30,000. Nearly 400 different students, in 90 different schools and colleges, were assisted by loans of from \$50 to \$100. Under the efficient management of Rev. Dr. Kidder the number of churches observing Children's Day is steadily increasing, and the collections for the funds of the Board are steadily increasing. We recommend the universal observance of this popular festival, with inexpensive decorations, and with such exercises as shall be most instructive and inspiring to our children and youth.

NEW ENGLAND SOUTHERN.

We are pleased to see that the Children's Day is becoming more and more generally observed in our churches, and that the collections on that day are steadily growing. And yet there is much room for improvement. Of the 187 charges in our Conference, only 74 are reported as having taken the Children's Day collection during the last year. The sum of these collections was \$461 09. Were each Sunday-school within our bounds to do its part and five cents to be contributed for each scholar (as is asked by the Board of Education) more than \$1,200 would be placed in the hands of its officers to aid needy students in securing the advantages of our institutions of learning.

We most earnestly commend the plans of the Board of Education to all our pastors and Sunday-school superintendents, for the attainment of these desirable results.

It should not be forgotten that the Board is aiding five students at the present time in the Greenwich Academy, who without this help would have been obliged to stop months ago.

MAINE.

Resolved, That we will as far as possible observe the second Sunday in June as Children's Day, and obey the recommendations of the Discipline respecting the disposal of funds collected on that day, as set forth in Paragraph 262, Sections 6 and 7.

CHILDREN'S DAY, 1886.—SPECIMEN ECHOES.

INDIA.

The first echoes of the Children's Day celebrations of this year reached us from India, the land of the rising sun. In order to avail themselves of a better floral season than June furnishes the North and South India Conferences fixed upon a Sunday in March to be observed as Children's Day.

Under this arrangement the first notice of any Children's Day service for the present year came to us from Calcutta, in the South India Conference.

CALCUTTA.

Yesterday was our Children's Day, and if you will allow me to report it, I must say it would have done credit to any of the large city churches in America. The church was beautifully decorated with mottoes, banners, flowers, flags, and birds. I never saw a prettier church. The programme was one which I compiled from several old ones of yours. I had the Bengali and Hindustani Sunday-schools join us for the occasion—so we had songs and recitations in three languages. Fully 1,200 persons were in the morning congregation. We held the services at 8 o'clock. The collection was 300 rupees. Every native child present brought a little copper coin worth about one third of a cent. Two of the English children, brother and sister, both under six years of age, brought their savings for one year for Children's Day. It amounted to 15 rupees.

In the evening I preached an illustrated sermon to the children. The audience taxed the capacity of the large building to its utmost.

You know why this day has a peculiar charm to me, and I think it grows on me.

I fully intended writing you last year giving you an account of the celebration. As it was the first ever held here, it was pronounced very fine, but the second—yesterday—was ahead of it.

J. M. THOBURN, JR.

LUCKNOW.

I have pleasure in sending the inclosed brief reports of our Children's Day services.

They are mostly from our weekly Christian newspaper, "The Star of India." One is from the "India Witness." In addition to the notices subjoined, Rev. C. L. Bare, Boys' Orphanage, Shahjehanpore; Rev. F. L. Neeld, Budaon; Rev. W. Peters (native), Bahraich; Rev. S. Paul (native), Gonda; Rev. J. W. Waugh, D.D., Dwarahath; Rev. J. T. McMahon, Paori, and others report interesting services; but none have sent written accounts. At Dwarahat many Hindus crowded into the little mission church and gave liberally to the collection. Many of our non-Christian friends enjoy giving on these occasions. If idolatrous Hindu

children cheerfully cast in their pennies—copper and silver—but vaguely understanding the meaning of the day, I wonder what *Christian* boys and girls should do. It is indeed comforting to know that they are doing so much. May each year witness larger gifts and greater enthusiasm in this good cause!

In conclusion I will say that within a brief period Children's Day in India has come into deserved prominence. Every year it grows more interesting and popular. Our collections are very carefully expended under direction of our Conference Board of Education. A number of young men are receiving help.

"Children's Day was observed with great enthusiasm in the Methodist churches of Lucknow on Sunday last. The Hindustani service was at 7:30 A. M. The chapel was beautifully decorated; in addition each scholar brought a bouquet of flowers which were placed upon the Bible, making a lovely floral pyramid. Besides the usual responsive readings and specially prepared hymns, recitations were furnished by the girls of the Lal Bagh School and the boys of the Centennial School. Addresses were made by Rev. J. H. Messmore and Rev. M. Stephens. The collection amounted to Rs. 31,* of which upward of Rs. 6 were given by the Centennial Sunday-school, *mostly by Hindu boys*, who were present in large numbers and seemed to enjoy the exercises as much as the Christian children. The attendance was about 350.

"The service in the English Church, Rev. W. R. Clancy, pastor, was at 11 A. M. The attendance was good. The responsive readings, recitations, and songs were enjoyed by all present. The pastor made a short address, showing the object to which the collection would be applied, and asked for Rs. 72. He was agreeably disappointed on receiving Rs. 100, subsequently increased to Rs. 122, being just double the collection last year. This is a splendid collection, and is but one of many indications that this English Church is becoming more and more interested in native work.

"The objection has been raised that the collections on Children's Day should not, as at present, be entirely applied to educating native preachers' sons, but that the daughters should also share its benefits. This no doubt will regulate itself in due season as it has at home. At present there are decidedly more girls than boys in our Mission boarding-schools, and the W. F. M. Society has thus far been able to meet the demands of the work in this direction."

B. H. BADLEY,

Secretary Board of Education, North India Conference.

CAWNPORE.

Rev. H. Mansell writes as follows from Cawnpore (Native Church)

"Children's Day was a success, 702 present, and three schools and all the girls' schools not present. A Mohammedan boy gave an address, and

* The rupee is worth 45 cents.

also a Christian boy. The singing was good. Brother Fieldbrave gave a beautiful address. Commandments recited by ten boys from ten Sunday-schools; Apostles' Creed by ten little girls from the schools. I told of John B. Gough's death, and asked if any one would volunteer to take his place, and speak in India always against intemperance and the use of all intoxicating drinks and drugs, and in favor of total abstinence from all these. Quick as a flash the best boy in Mrs. Mansell's class stood up. His name is Kumar Chheda Singh. May God make use of him!"

We are indebted to an obliging correspondent for the following additional account:

"Children's Day is becoming an institution of the Methodist Episcopal Church in all lands. The wave of enthusiasm has extended to other countries than the United States, and in India Children's Day is observed in all our Sunday-schools, both native and European.

"In Cawnpore the day was of unusual interest. The English church was trimmed with flowers and decorated with plants, and both morning and evening services were given up to the children. At the morning service the pastor, Rev. A. J. Maxwell, preached from the 15th verse of the 21st chapter of Matthew. In the evening a large congregation was present. The special feature of this meeting was the presence of 70 native Christian boys from the Industrial School. They added much to the interest of the services by contributing two songs. The responsive service was interspersed with music, and at its close the pastor gave an address on education which was replete with good thoughts. The collection amounted to Rs. 125.

"In the native church the morning service was given up to the children. The bazar schools were all represented, and the 800 boys and girls manifested an eagerness throughout the service that indicated the trend of the young native mind toward the Christian faith. This church was also tastefully trimmed, and the exercises consisted of recitations, songs, and a sermon by the pastor, Rev. I. Fieldbrave. The call made upon the Church, and the annual occurrence of Children's Day in India, is being more liberally responded to every year. The money is disposed of in a way to indicate the breadth of the Christian plan, which looks to the future enlargement of Christ's kingdom on earth. May the good influences set on foot at this anniversary extend far out into the future!"

BAREILLY.

Rev. J. H. Gill, Missionary.

"The exercises of Children's Day were held on the appointed Sunday, and in accordance with the programme published at the Press. There were present only about 450 persons in our church, in the Civil Lines. The house sadly needs the enlargement recently authorized by the Board. To make room for so many the benches in front were removed, and a large number of children crowded together on the floor. The collection amounted to Rs. 12-8-0. The Rev. S. Dease, M.D., presided. The Orphanage girls were especially well-drilled in their recitations, their songs,

and in the responsive reading of Scripture. The decorations of the church were beautiful. Three very small performers did their parts so well as to elicit much sympathy and praise. Many, many thanks to all the friends who helped to make the day very successful. As far as an eye-witness could see, the spirit of the instructions from the Board of Education was fully carried out, and the results in impressions on the Church favorable to advancing education fully realized."

BIJNOUR.

Rev. N. L. Rockey writes :

"We used the Children's Day Exercises. Our collection was Rs. 9-9-0. Seven were received into full connection from our schools and three others, ten in all. Three from our school were received on probation. Four babes were baptized, also a young man, a Hindu, who has been attending our small school. He was received on probation. An unusually large number took the sacrament, and the day was crowded with joy and blessing."

PITHORAGARH.

Rev. S. S. Dease :

"Our church was tastefully decorated by the girls, and we had a very successful service of song, recitations, and addresses. Collection, Rs. 13."

THE UNITED STATES.

No attempt to place on record any just idea of the extent to which the Children's Day of 1886 was observed throughout our own great country will be at all complete without including the list of pecuniary offerings made on the occasion. That list cannot be fully made up and classified for publication till near the end of the year. It will be found in the Annual Report issued early in 1887. Its arrangement by Conferences and districts makes it easy to find the name of any appointment that made a report, together with the name of the person reporting. The absence of the name of any charge indicates that no report from that charge was made direct to the Board of Education. If any collection from such a charge reached the Board it was so blended with other collections that it could not be designated. Experience has proved that where moneys are held to be paid over at Annual Conferences we usually fail to get a detailed report of the charges from which they come—a fact which often gives dissatisfaction to the people. We therefore request direct reports and remittances according to the plan indicated by the blank reporting ticket

and return envelope sent out to all pastors. In all cases where such reports and remittances are received official receipts are promptly returned, to serve as vouchers at the ensuing Annual Conference. Thus public credits may be secured both in the Conference Minutes and in the general Educational Report of the Church. Every friend of the Church ought to feel interested in having the latter made as perfect as possible. It is a document which from year to year goes as far, perhaps, as any other toward making up the current history of the Church. Hence our ambition for it is to have it contain annually the name of every pastoral charge, if not of every Sunday-school, in our connection coupled with a creditable offering to the Children's Educational Fund.

Besides the list of collections referred to we annually give, as herewith, such condensed reports as reach us in time for the July number of the Church MANUAL. These reports are arranged under the headings of the several States of the Union from which they come, without reference to Conference boundaries.

For obvious reasons they are pruned down to the narrowest limits. As a rule they are also divested of all allusions to the mode and extent of Church decorations. On the basis of thousands of statements to that effect, it may be assumed that EVERY-WHERE the inspiration of the occasion was enhanced by a tasteful use of flowers—God's own beautiful emblems of childhood and youth.

The education secured by enlisting teachers, children, and others in gathering and arranging natural flowers to adorn the house of God and to inspire pure and noble aspirations in the hearts of the young, is in itself an object of no small importance. Yet we wish to discourage all extravagance and improper rivalry in this department of effort, as tending not only to pride and wastefulness, but also to obscure, if not to ultimately obliterate, the special object of the Children's Day observance, namely, the promoting of Christian education.

There are other ways in which the proper design of this beautiful institution may be perverted, and against all of them the true friends of the Church should be on the alert. Singleness of aim in accordance with its grand and original purpose

is essential to the continued and growing success of the Children's Day movement. Yet, subject to that aim, the capabilities of the movement are only just beginning to be realized. Of this, abundant proof may be gathered from the following varied and voluntary statements, for many of which we are indebted to our Church papers :

MAINE.

PORTLAND DISTRICT.

Children's Day was very generally observed through the district. The floral decorations and the exercises by the children, with sermons by the pastors, made the occasion one of pleasure and renewed inspiration.

At Mechanic Falls Children's Day was a grand success. The pastor preached to the children in the afternoon, and the Sunday-school had a concert in the evening. During the afternoon service eleven were baptized ; among them were a father, mother, and three daughters.

At Orrington Children's Day proved to be an occasion of much interest.

At Farmington the exercises by the children were interspersed with addresses by Pastor Bean, Revs. John Allen and D. Church. Pastor Bean baptized thirteen during the day—nine at the church, and four at the river.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The second Sabbath of June, set apart as Children's Day, proved to be very unpropitious in some sections, by reason of the rain. Yet it was observed by many of our churches whose arrangements had all been made. We are without particulars of many, except the fact that the day was duly observed.

At South Newmarket the rain did not prevent. The programme issued by Dr. Kidder was used, interspersed with recitations and readings. The church was trimmed with more than ordinary taste. There was a beautiful display of flowers. A fine audience was present.

At Whitefield Pastor Quimby preached on Christian education in the morning, and in the evening there was a Sunday-school concert, with the usual accessories. The collection, taken with no special effort to raise money, was \$17 more than the total in five consecutive years previously. The facts were stated, and the people given a chance to contribute.

Children's Day was well attended and much enjoyed at Portsmouth, notwithstanding the rain. The Sunday-school, under the direction of Superintendent Hayford, gave a very interesting concert in the evening.

MASSACHUSETTS.

TEMPLE STREET, Boston.

The Boston papers contain very full accounts of the exercises on Children's Day, June 13, in many of our city churches, and of none so fully as that of Temple Street Church. Prof. Carter directed the musical part of

the exercises, which was very excellent. In the morning the pastor, Rev. G. A. Crawford, preached on "Manliness." In the evening recitations, singing, and addresses were interspersed, the service being concluded by a touching "In Memoriam" of those members of the school who had died during the year. At the close of the evening exercises from 150 to 200 plants and floral pieces were distributed.

MONUMENT SQUARE.

This church held delightful services throughout the day, the pastor preaching in the morning. Rev. W. T. Worth addressed the children in the afternoon, and an excellent concert was given in the evening.

SARATOGA STREET.

Rev. S. L. Baldwin, D.D., preached in the morning a unique and interesting sermon to the children, and a fine concert occupied the evening.

EAST BOSTON.

Children's Day at the Bethel Church was a great success; more than twelve hundred were present. The exercises were conducted by the pastor, Dr. L. B. Bates, and the superintendent, George Wright. One hundred and twenty children took part in the concert service. The church was finely decorated. A light-house made of daisies represented Boston Light, and a full-rigged ship, approaching, attracted great attention. During the day the missionary boat of this church brought in a sick and wounded sailor and found friends for him.

WEBSTER SQUARE, WORCESTER.

On Children's Day Pastor Staples baptized twenty Christian children at the altar, and received fifteen of them on probation. In the evening twelve others from the Sunday-school publicly began a Christian life.

AUBURNDALE.

We celebrated Children's Day a week ahead of the usual time. We had a delightful service, and the collection shows a very large advance. Of course I had something to say and could speak from my experience as student and teacher. You may be certain that I will always look after this collection.

I will send the list of annual subscribers as soon as I get the names accurately. I called special attention to this new departure.

WILLIAM R. NEWHALL.

CLIFTONDALE.

Sunday, June 13, was a good day for the Methodist people in Cliftondale. Eight children were baptized by the pastor, Rev. C. A. Littlefield, who says, "These children have been well instructed in the children's class-meeting as to the meaning and purpose of the holy ordinance of baptism, and it is safe to say that but few older people take the baptismal vows with clearer views than they." Preaching to the children, from a text of their choosing, followed this service. In the evening a most excellent concert was given. The collection was largely in excess of last year.

COTTAGE STREET, CAMBRIDGE.

The pastor preached to the children in the morning and to parents at 3 P. M. The Sunday-school concert in the evening was a great success. The house was packed; a hundred stood all the evening, and as many went away who could not enter.

WATERTOWN.

Rev. Dr. J. H. Twombly preached Sunday morning of Children's Day to a fine congregation, from Prov. xx, 11: "Even a child is known by his doings." It was a very suggestive sermon, and happily illustrated with anecdotes. The concert in the evening was under the direction of Superintendent George E. Priest. Collections were taken during the day for educational purposes.

NORTH GRAFTON.

In the morning the pastor, Rev. E. H. Tunnickliff, preached upon the history and demands upon the Church in relation to children, and the education of worthy but indigent young men and women called of the Lord to preach or to teach. A fine concert was given in the evening. The floral decorations, addresses, recitations, and singing sanctified the hour with hallowed influences.

Similar reports of pleasing exercises come to us from Lynn, Common Street Church, Boston Street, Saugus, Maple Street, Malden, Wakefield, Broadway and Flint Street, Somerville, Walnut Street and Mount Bellingham, Chelsea, and other places, all of which show how greatly this day is winning its place as a power in the Church.—*Zion's Herald*.

PARK CHURCH, FALL RIVER.

I inclose a draft for \$12 for the Children's Fund. This is the first time, I understand, that this charge has contributed to this cause. A great interest was manifested, and we had a delightful time. Having received such valuable aid from the Board of Education, I feel a special interest in Children's Day each year.

M. S. KAUFMAN.

RHODE ISLAND.

WOONSOCKET.

Our Children's Day service on Sunday last was a success. The collection was \$8 net, which I inclose. This is an advance of \$3 over the sum sent last year.

JAS. H. NUTTING.

CONNECTICUT.

DANBURY.

At our church here the entire day was given to the children. At the morning services the pastor, J. W. Barnhart, preached an excellent sermon from the text found in the 144th Psalm, at the twelfth verse, which was interesting and instructive to children and adults. The evening services were conducted by the superintendent of the Sabbath-school, J. W. Osmun.

SOUTH PARK CHURCH, HARTFORD.

The church was peculiarly decorated for the Children's Day exercises. On the right of the altar was a light-house, four feet tall, with a bright light in the lantern. The structure was made of daisies, with windows of pansies, the whole surrounded by a miniature sea, with rocks, ships, and foliage. At the morning service the pastor, A. S. Kavanagh, baptized seven children, after which he preached a sermon appropriate to the day from the text, "Feed my lambs." At the close of the baptismal service each child was presented with a tiny bouquet. In the evening the church was crowded, the aisles being filled with chairs. The exercises were under the direction of the superintendent of the Sunday-school, Mr. George W. Atwood.

THOMASTON.

Children's Day was observed in Thomaston Methodist Episcopal Church by appropriate exercises, and was a grand success. The official programme was used, and we were all delighted with it. Inclosed please find check for the amount collected for the Children's Educational Fund.

NELSON L. PORTER.

WOODBURY.

Inclosed find check for our contribution to the Children's Fund.

Though the day was stormy, our exercises were intensely interesting, and our church crowded to its utmost capacity. Children's Day is an event looked forward to with peculiar interest and delight in our staid old town.

H. Q. JUDD.

NORTH MANCHESTER.

It rained yesterday, but our Children's Day was a success. We raised \$30 in all. We used part of the programme, and had essays and a few recitations. The following statement will indicate our mode of taking the collection. We sprung an arch over the entire pulpit platform (30 feet long) of evergreens, laurels, roses, etc. The classes made their offerings in connection with personified letters, spelling out, with fine effect, the words

EDUCATIONAL OFFERING.

The pastor called for the letter E to rise and speak and show its interest in the cause of Christian education. E arose and gave a two or three minutes speech, written by myself for the occasion. At close of speech the teacher came forward handing an evergreen letter E, bordered with roses or laurel, to which was suspended a tiny basket of flowers inside of which was the money; the amount in each basket was given to the secretary, who kept a list. At the close of the offerings the sum was announced. Each little speech was packed with some important fact or truth. Each person personating a letter rose informally in the audience where he or she happened to be, giving a free and easy effect. This part was very enjoyable and instructive, as it tended to unite this particular school with our educational work.

R. J. KELLOGG.

NEW YORK.

ASBURY, NEW YORK CITY.

The Children's Day exercises occurred on last Sabbath night. They included a baptismal service, Scripture texts, catechism in poetry, recitations, singing, a short address by Mrs. Bottome, and were excellent.

THIRTY-FIFTH STREET.

Children's Day was appropriately observed. In the morning the pastor preached a sermon to the children. In the afternoon and evening the exercises were largely by the scholars. Much credit is due the managers. The congregations were large. The collection was greatly in excess of that of last year.

PARK AVENUE.

Children's Day was celebrated in the morning, taking the place of the usual church service. The audience-room was crowded. The programme furnished by the Educational Society was mostly adhered to. The school and church were favored by the presence of Dr. Kidder, who made an instructive and interesting address. Dr. King, the pastor, baptized twenty-four children. Mr. C. W. Turner, the superintendent, had charge of the services.

THIRTIETH STREET.

The old and young joined in hymns of praise on Children's Day. At the morning service a number of children were baptized, and an address was attentively listened to. In the afternoon the auditorium was filled to overflowing by friends, who listened to a responsive service by the school and addresses by the Rev. Dr. Backus, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and the superintendent of the school, J. F. Phayre, Esq., who has just returned from Europe. In the evening the house was again filled. The pastor delivered the last one of a course of sermons—subject, "Success, and How Obtained." The day throughout was delightful, while the collection for the Educational Society is in advance of former years.

DUANE CHURCH.

The Children's Day exercises occurred on Sunday evening, June 13. The programme furnished by the Board of Education was partly adhered to. The other services consisted of recitations by Sunday-school scholars, singing by the choir, Sunday-school, and infant-class, and an address by S. L. Russell, Esq. The pastor baptized ten children. The congregation was larger than has been seen in the old church for many years. Mr. Joseph Godwin, the superintendent, had charge of the services.

JOHN STREET.

Children's Day was appropriately observed by the Sabbath-school connected with this historic church of Methodism in this country. The exercises consisted of Scripture responsive readings, recitations, and music, which were admirably rendered by the scholars of the school. J. L. Peck, D.D., pastor of the church, delivered an interesting and appropriate address to the children and their friends. The congregation was large, and a liberal collection was given.

EIGHTEENTH STREET.

Children's Day here was "gilt-edged." The large audience-room was packed, gallery and floor, with the children and their friends. The exercises consisted of responsive readings and singing by the school, and an address by the pastor. A number of the children joined the church on probation, several infants and older children were baptized, there was singing by the Chinese school; and of the latter, two, the first-fruits of this department, were admitted to membership in the church, and received baptism. The collection was an advance over last year's of more than sixty per cent. In the evening the flowers were distributed to the sick.

SECOND STREET.

Children's Day services were held on the evening of June 20, Superintendent Knox, conductor. There were singing, recitations, a bright poem written by Mrs. Anderson, the efficient superintendent of the primary department, and an earnest address by the pastor.

POWERS STREET, BROOKLYN, E. D.

On last Sabbath morning and afternoon Children's Day was celebrated for the first time in this new edifice. The programme of exercises was admirably carried out by the children. Addresses appropriate to the occasion were made by the pastor, G. W. Harmer, superintendent, and others.

GREENE AVENUE, BROOKLYN.

Sunday was celebrated as Children's Day. The pastor, R. T. McNicholl, preached an appropriate sermon in the morning. In the evening an attractive and instructive programme was carried out, under the direction of Mr. C. F. Jones, the superintendent of the Sunday-school. The singing was good, and the declamations well rendered. An exceedingly felicitous and forcible address was delivered by A. A. Spear, Esq., chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Puritan Congregational Church, which was listened to with marked attention. Though the people have been subscribing liberally toward the fund for the new church, the collection taken for the Educational Society was considerably in advance of last year's. The church was crowded at the evening services, and many people were obliged to turn away from the door.

NORTH FIFTH STREET, BROOKLYN, E. D.

Children's Day in this church, H. C. McBride, pastor, was a remarkable success. At 10:30 A. M. the pastor preached an appropriate sermon to the children on "Giants." He gave a graphic description of David's encounter with Goliath, and then improved the subject by referring to giant sins, such as Sabbath-breaking, profanity, intemperance, selfishness, etc. At 7:45 the interest culminated in the building of "the Gospel ship" with daisies by the children. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity, and all were impressed with the fact that Children's Day could be made both profitable and interesting. The collection for educational interests

was a hundred per cent. in advance of any former occasion. The work of revival still goes on in this church.

SIMPSON CHURCH, BROOKLYN.

Children's Day was observed with enthusiasm and gratifying success. In the morning the school assembled at 9:30 for the study of the lesson of the day, after which the children marched into the church, where they participated in the services. The pastor, J. S. Breckenridge, held their undivided attention while he discoursed to them of "A Beautiful Girl who Became a Queen." In the afternoon the church was well filled with the members and friends of the school, when music, recitations, and addresses by ex-Gov. Stewart L. Woodford and the pastor comprised the exercises. The educational fund was substantially remembered.

WASHINGTON STREET, POUGHKEEPSIE.

Children's Day was observed on Sunday last. The pastor, Dr. Hatfield, preached an appropriate sermon. The evening exercises consisted of singing, responsive readings, and recitations by the children, and an address by Mr. James S. Case, of Brooklyn. Large congregations, an elegant floral display, an interesting service, and liberal collections will make the day memorable.

AMITYVILLE, L. I.

Children's Day was duly observed. In the morning the pastor, J. V. Saunders, preached a sermon on "The Relation of Children to our Church," and in the evening the exercises were carried out by the children. Father Silas W. Payne, in his eighty-fourth year, led in the opening prayer, and the Rev. F. W. Sizer, in his eighty-seventh year, and whose birthday was on Children's Day, read an original poem, full of kindly counsel to the children. Beautiful flowers, music, children, and old age made the occasion one of very great interest. A good collection for the Educational Society crowned the services.

GLOVERSVILLE.

In the First Church Children's Day was eminently pleasant and successful. There were elegant decorations, a delightful service, a great congregation, and a grand collection for education, \$108.

HIGHLAND FALLS.

Children's Day was a great success. As at all the evening services, the church was crowded. The children preached the Gospel in songs and recitations. The collection was liberal. The self-sacrificing workers were amply repaid for their trouble.

MONSEY AND MONTVILLE, NEWARK CONFERENCE.

Children's Day was observed with peculiar interest and with due reference to the work of the Board of Education at three successive services held at the several appointments of the charge. The collections were creditable, and the spiritual interests of the churches were promoted in various ways, including the baptism of five children, and the reception of four persons into church fellowship by letter.

ALBION.

Yesterday was a great day for our children in the Methodist Church of Albion. I send you \$12, the collection taken by the children for education (just double last year's amount).

JOHN W. SANBORN.

TARRYTOWN.

Inclosed find \$28 68, Children's Day collection from the Asbury M. E. Church Sabbath-school. We had a glorious day from morning till night. The memory of it will linger with us till 1887, when we expect to do better.

FRANK L. WILSON.

FISHKILL.

Our Children's Day service was pronounced by all a success. We had special children's services both morning and evening, and in spite of the unfavorable weather we had splendid congregations, and every body seemed delighted. Inclosed find the amount of our collections.

L. B. SCOTT.

JOHNSONVILLE.

Children's Day yesterday in our church showed the fact that it has obtained a permanent place in the hearts of the people, and especially the children. They look forward to it as *their day*, and, with the object for which the day has been set apart clearly defined and constantly kept before them in the exercises, cannot fail to be of lasting benefit to our educational cause. We gave the entire day to it, had a crowded house, and \$23 collection. Heaven bless the Children's Day!

W. H. GROAT.

GOUVERNEUR.

Children's Day was successful. Both morning and evening services were conducted by the Sunday-school. The \$75 apportioned for the completion of the Gardner Baker Professorship was combined with the regular children's collection, with the result of \$115 cash, leaving \$40 for the children's fund after canceling our obligation to the professorship.

M. W. CHASE.

WARSAW.

Children's Day in Warsaw was an occasion of genuine profit. The decorations were elaborate and elegant, and the exercises well rendered, and the university and seminary fully cared for. Next Sunday will be our great Educational Day. The morning service will be devoted to Syracuse University. There will be an address by the pastor, and it is hoped that at least one university student will deliver a ten-minutes oration, thus impressing our own college upon the minds of our people. The evening is to be devoted entirely to Genesee Wesleyan Seminary. The time will be occupied in the reading of essays and the delivery of orations by Lima students present and past. We believe that if every church would thoroughly work up such services for at least one day each year, there would soon be not only largely increased information in regard to our own schools, but largely increased enthusiasm for securing the advantages offered by them, and the result of this would be a great increase of students and quickening of all intellectual and church life.

NEW JERSEY.

ST. PAUL'S, JERSEY CITY.

This day of days for children was beautifully celebrated on Sabbath last. In the morning the church was filled with parents, teachers, children, and friends of the school. There was an address of welcome by one of the scholars, responsive readings, singing, prayers, collection, and benediction. In the evening Dr. J. M. Reid, Senior Secretary of our Missionary Society, gave one of his "very best efforts" in a grand address on the design of the Children's Day. He was followed by Hon. Z. K. Pangborn, editor of the "Jersey City Journal," in a most valuable and interesting address. The whole day was the best which the church has ever enjoyed on this line.

L. R. DUNN.

FREEHOLD.

Children's Day was celebrated at the Freehold Methodist Episcopal Church in a manner long to be remembered. At the morning service the pastor, W. M. White, delivered a highly interesting sermon on the childhood of Jesus, founded upon Luke ii, 52. At the close of the sermon an extraordinary spectacle was presented, when 63 children under the age of 11 years were brought to the altar by their parents or sponsors for baptism. In the evening a special service was held by the Sabbath-school under a programme arranged for the occasion by the superintendent, Mr. William H. Ingling. Collections were taken during the day in aid of the Church Educational Fund.

MECHANICSVILLE.

Children's Day was kept with rich and interesting programmes at both services, morning and evening.

MARTINSVILLE.

The exercises were held morning and afternoon. In the morning a sermon by the pastor from the middle clause of Lev. xix, 19: "Thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed."

In the afternoon four schools united and the church was crowded to overflowing; exercises by the scholars—recitations, addresses, and singing. Next Sabbath, 20th, we have special services at Springdale, on this charge, and we shall make an appeal for education and continue the collection.

W. C. NELSON.

PINEBROOK.

The amount of our collection was the same as last year. Our Sunday-school entered into the spirit of the exercises and we had a good day.

G. T. JACKSON.

BERNARDSVILLE.

Inclosed please find the results of our Children's Day collection. We had a delightful day, and, I believe, a very profitable time. A full house, and every body pleased. Blessings on you!

S. B. ROONEY.

SALEM.

Children's Day was observed by the Broadway Church and school with an increased interest. The pastor preached a sermon in the morning on "Childhood and Youth." In the evening the spacious audience-room was literally packed, and the programme, arranged by the teachers, was very finely rendered by the school. Every body seemed delighted with the great spiritual truths brought out in recitation and song. Collection fully equal to last year.

J. L. ROE.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Children's Day was observed in almost, if not quite, all of our churches, and every-where with intense interest and profit both to parents and children, as is evidenced by the many reports we print this week under their appropriate heading. The abundance of spring flowers for sale in the hot-houses and in the market places contributed to the beauty of the display, while the excellent programmes provided for the occasion added special interest to the services. The pastors, too, almost universally preached to the children on themes appropriate to them and the day. So that altogether the Children's Day of 1886 will be a memorable occasion, and its repetition a year hence will be looked forward to by the little folks with intense delight. We hope the collection for the Children's Fund will be worthy of the occasion and of the cause of education, to which it will be appropriated.—*Philadelphia Methodist*.

UNION CHURCH.

Children's Day was observed by Union with interest. The editor of the "Philadelphia Methodist" occupied the pulpit in the morning, discoursing to the young people of the Sunday-school on Lam. iii, 27, "It is a good thing for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." The congregation was large and the services interesting.

In the afternoon, the Sunday-school, after its regular opening services, devoted the hour to singing and short addresses, Mr. Chubb, a member of the Board of Trustees, leading in a very good speech, and Rev. J. B. McCullough following.

In the evening the school took entire charge of the services, using the programme edited by Dr. Kidder. It is reported as a very enjoyable occasion—such a day as both teachers and children will be glad to have repeated as Children's Day comes round from year to year.

CITY MISSION.

Children's Day was celebrated with special services which embraced some unusual features, and proved a source of joy to teachers and scholars. A Band of Hope was started, some seventy-five children promising to avoid the use of strong drink and tobacco, and receiving a badge of blue ribbon. The children marched in column around the aisles singing "Hold the Fort." The children were dismissed with a pot of flowers in one hand and a bouquet in the other. Never was seen a happier lot of children. The pastor, Rev. George Cummins, and others addressed the children.

BROAD STREET.

The entire day was given to exercises appropriate to the day. The morning sermon was to the children by the pastor—text, Gal. xi, 6 : “ A little child shall lead them.” At 2.30 the Sabbath-school held their service, responsive readings, recitations, singing, and addresses by Rev. H. L. Duhring, of the Episcopal Church, and the pastor. At night the sermon was to the young people by the pastor—text, Matt. xiii, 45 : “ Seeking goodly pearls.” The congregations were good, and every body seemed delighted.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, GERMANTOWN.

We observed Children's Day, and the exercises were intensely interesting. The collection exceeded that of last year by at least fifty per cent.

COOKMAN CHURCH.

Morning—Sermon by the pastor, on “ Wisdom.”

Afternoon—Responsive readings, recitations, and addresses by Rev. R. Harkinson and Mr. Harkness.

Evening—Recitations, addresses by Dr. Cooper, the superintendent, and responsive readings. Fine singing all day. Good collections, baptism, several persons received by letter, and the pastor's son on probation. A happy day.

BRIDESBURG.

Children's Day was celebrated in a very enthusiastic manner. The pastor preached to the Sabbath-school in the morning and evening. In the afternoon brief addresses, interspersed with appropriate singing, were made by Rev. W. W. Heydrick, George F. Little, A. Vanhorn, Revs. S. Powers and W. H. Fries. The collection for education one hundred per cent. in advance of last year.

ST. LUKE CHURCH, BRYN MAWR.

Children's Day with us was a grand success. All who looked upon the decorations exclaimed, “ Beautiful ! ” The congregations were very large. The school, having been under the instruction of Prof. W. J. Kirkpatrick for some time, surpassed itself in its singing.

In the morning there was a sermon to children by the pastor, at which time six infants were baptized. In the evening our Church programme was used. The collection for the day was twenty-five dollars.

CHELTENHAM.

Children's Day was observed in Cheltenham in the morning and afternoon. The programme edited by Dr. Kidder, interspersed by short readings and recitations by the children of the school, was used at both services.

Our beloved pastor, Brother Heacock, made two eloquent, instructive, and stirring addresses, setting forth the great principles upon which Children's Day is founded. Brother Heacock has the faculty of presenting statistics and dates extemporaneously with remarkably accuracy, and his addresses formed a very important feature of the day's service. Cheltenham is alive to the needs of the Board of Education of our Church, and on this occasion the collection for this purpose was fully up to the mark of former years.

DARBY AND SHARON HILL.

In the morning a short sermon was preached to the children in the Darby church by the pastor, and the rite of baptism administered to nine children and two adults.

In the afternoon the Sharon Hill Sunday-school celebrated the day. The programme was entertaining, and gave evidence of careful training under the direction of Miss Mauger, to whom many thanks are due.

In the evening the special service of the Darby Sunday-school was held. A short address was given by Rev. Wm. John, followed by recitations, songs, and responsive exercises suitable to the occasion. A special feature was the part taken by the infant school under the care of Miss Alice Smith. The little ones evidently enjoyed Children's Day. All the services were fully attended, and seemed to give great satisfaction to the audience.

COVENANT CHURCH, READING.

Children's Day was observed at Covenant yesterday with a spirit never before shown. The pastor, Rev. G. L. Schaffer, preached in the morning on the "Lessons from the Flowers." In the evening the official programme was used. During the service two adults were baptized, twelve probationers received into full connection, and four persons joined by certificate. The church was beautifully decorated, congregation large, filling every part of the house.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, READING.

Children's Day was observed in our church, the services of which were largely attended. In the morning appropriate addresses were made by the pastor and Mr. F. F. Boas, followed by sixteen little girls dressed in white carrying banners, who repeated scriptural passages, at the conclusion of which the pastor baptized nineteen children. In the afternoon the main, infant, and mission Sunday-schools were in attendance, crowding the edifice. The services consisted of singing, responsive readings, and recitations. Mrs. E. W. James delivered an excellent address, which was followed with one by Rev. Joseph Welsh, presiding elder. At the 6 o'clock twilight service the presiding elder preached a very appropriate sermon. The collections of the day were very liberal.

PORT RICHMOND.

Children's Day was observed in this section of the city with much enthusiasm. The programme sent out by Dr. Kidder was used. In the morning the sermon by the pastor was on the proper training of children and youth. In the afternoon the responsive readings and singing of the programme were carried out, interspersed with readings and recitations by the infant department and the larger scholars. The church was full, and all present were delighted. The evening sermon by the pastor was to the young people.

EAST MAUCH CHUNK.

Children's Day passed off pleasantly amid very beautiful church decorations and responsive exercises, "Bible Symbols of Wisdom" being used. The collection for the day for the fund of Education was \$12 50. The

pastor's address to the children was impressive, being based on elements of character, charity, honesty, rectitude, integrity, sincerity, truth, the first letters of which made the word Christ, their example. The evening sermon on Christian Education was an excellent effort.

LEBANON.

Short's the word. Every body was delighted. The only feature that was new to your reporter was the taking of the collection in a well-bucket. A deep collection must not be inferred from the circumstance. All wells are not deep. Time is required for depth, and this is comparatively a new country for Methodism.

LITTLESTOWN.

I am glad to report good news. Children's Day was observed at Littlestown Methodist Episcopal Church yesterday, June 13, 1886. They had never observed Children's Day before in their history as a church, though Methodist ministers have been living close to the church for a number of years. I ordered a Children's Day on the ground of what the Discipline says, and also for the benefit I thought it would be to the Church.

I made an educational speech, at the close of which we took up a collection for the Sunday-school Fund of the Board of Education, amounting in all to \$12. A check is inclosed for this amount. Every body pronounced it a grand success for the first Children's Day in Littlestown. An old brother, 76 years of age (the Samuel of our church here), wanted to say a word when I was through. He said: "I have lived 76 years (50 of them in Littlestown), and have never seen a Children's Day before. What a glorious day this is! My soul has been stirred within me. What a glorious privilege is yours, dear children! We had no such array of flowers and these singing birds when I was a boy; no beautiful and touching services like we have had this morning. God bless the Children's Day!"

His words fell with sweetness and power from his melted heart upon the captivated throng. I shall always try to help this fund by a Children's Day collection. Sincerely yours,

JAMES ECKERSLEY.

We are gratified to find that this anniversary is becoming more and more popular as the years come and go. The interest engendered by such occasions is truly marvelous. We do not wonder, then, at the enthusiasm and minuteness of detail of those who report the services. Indeed, we do not see how any one can well help being carried away by the swell of the occasion. Many of these reports are reaching this office, and we would have them in increased numbers. Yet it will very naturally occur to a reflecting mind that of necessity much of sameness will mark these reports. To avoid the result which would certainly follow wading through columns of such repetitions, and because of the press on our local columns, we will open for a week or two a Children's Day Department, in which we will note all such services of which we may be informed, giving only those items of special interest in which one may differ from the others. We shall be glad to have reports from all our charges, but let them be sent in immediately.—*Pittsburg Christian Advocate.*

HARMONY.

The pastor preached to the children in the morning ; church packed and overflowing ; first attempt at the observance of the day in this place, and it was voted a grand success.

F. PROSSER.

BLAIRSVILLE.

Children's Day was observed by a regular programme, and an address by the pastor. The church was beautifully decorated with plants and cut flowers. At the morning service the sermon was to the children, and at night to the parents. The collection was larger than last year.

SHOUSTOWN.

From the beginning to the close of the service we designed to emphasize the importance of Christian education ; collection from this one appointment is an increase of \$6 40 over that of the entire circuit for the previous year. The observance is of great value to the cause of education ; also of no less importance to the school itself, making it more attractive and interesting, thus building up the school.

J. W. CAREY.

GREENWOOD.

A great day at each of our three appointments ; in all an interesting, practical, and spiritual time for old and young ; collections not so good as would have liked, but good.

J. C. GILLETTE.

SHIPPENVILLE.

Children's Day was certainly a "red-letter" day here. We observed it at all four appointments—at Shippenville and Haven on the 13th, at Elk City and DeLo Chapel on the 20th. The congregations were unusually large at every point ; the days fine ; the interest manifested encouraging ; the children acquitted themselves so as to deserve great credit ; exercises varied throughout with appropriate recitations and excellent singing ; every body, young and old, seemed pleased, and unite in pronouncing it a grand success.

H. A. TEATS.

MARYLAND.

GRACE CHURCH, BALTIMORE.

The entire day was given up to the children. The audience-room, beautiful in itself, was still more beautified by a congregation which filled the entire building. The address was made by the pastor. In the midst of the morning service ten infants were baptized. A collection of \$675 was taken up for the benefit of the Sunday school and the Children's Day Fund.

In the evening a still larger congregation gathered. The infant class first led the exercises ; then two recitations by young ladies of the school ; then followed a most excellent address by Mr. Carter, of the Brown Memorial Church.

HANOVER STREET.

We had a delightful Children's Day exercise. The occasion was very attractive. Our church was crowded to overflowing ; collection good.

SUMMERFIELD CHURCH.

The annual Children's Day services of this church were held June 6. In the morning the pastor preached appropriately and took the educational collection. At night services of a varied character were conducted by the members of the school who were seated on a large platform erected for the purpose. This was ornamented by a ladder fourteen feet high elaborately trimmed in white flowers and evergreens.

About the middle of the programme each class brought up a basket of flowers and these were hung upon the different rounds, the top one being reserved for a large basket representing the contribution of the congregation. The ladder was then raised to an elevated position and presented a most beautiful and picturesque appearance.

SOUTH RIVER.

Children's Day was observed on the Sabbaths of June 6th and 13th. The churches were most handsomely decorated, the congregations crowded, the music of a high order. Every body was delighted and gave it as their opinion that the occasions were the most beautiful and delightful they had ever attended. We gathered, in our collections, ten dollars, mostly in five cent pieces.

WEST RIVER.

Children's Day was observed at Owensville Appointment on Sunday last. The exercises were under the very efficient management of our superintendent, F. M. Byrd. The programme was so rendered as to be enjoyable to all. The children did their part well and showed the care that had been taken in the preparation. At the close of the programme "Five Pennies" was recited by Miss Lizzie Eldridge, and a very creditable collection taken.

SUMMERFIELD CIRCUIT.

There are six Sunday-schools on this circuit; Children's Day was observed at each school, the services being of an interesting and instructive character. The programme published by Dr. Kidder and the "red letter" were extensively circulated. A growing interest in Christian education was manifested by an increased collection, netting for the circuit \$39.

ANNAPOLIS.

Yesterday was observed as Children's Day at the First Charge in this place. Ample preparation had been made. The Sabbath-school held its exercises in the evening in the audience room. The pastor, G. V. Leech, preached a sermon at 11 A. M. on "Christian Teaching," which was listened to with great interest by a large and intelligent audience. The text was, "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children." Envelopes that had been distributed during the week, asking for the assessments for six of the collections ordered by the Discipline, were returned in the morning. At night \$20 was received for the Children's Fund. Similar exercises were also observed at Wesley Chapel.

HAVRE DE GRACE.

The observance of Children's Day in this charge was a grand success throughout. The entire day was given to the children. The exercises of the day consisted of the programme, edited by the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education, and appropriate addresses and recitations by the scholars of the school at the morning service. The attendance was large; and all, both old and young, enjoyed the exercises ever so much. The collection was larger than that of any previous year.

FREDERICK CITY.

Children's Day was duly observed here, and was an occasion of more than usual interest. In the morning a sermon was preached upon Christian Education to a large congregation by the pastor, Rev. L. H. Pearce. Like all his pulpit efforts it was practical, scholarly, scriptural, and filled with earnest religious fervor. The services at night were intensely interesting. The programme had been arranged, and the exercises were conducted by the pastor. The services published by the Book Concern were used with modification. An interesting feature was the baptism of ten infants, whose parents presented them at the altar rail to receive this Christian rite at the hands of our beloved pastor.

The infant class exercises, under the management of Misses Ida Cunningham and Nannie Hemlein, added greatly to the interest of the occasion. The music was grand, conducted by Mr. G. W. Hemlein, leader, and Miss Nannie Young, organist. At the conclusion twenty young persons presented themselves at the altar and joined the Church on probation.

MECHANICSTOWN CIRCUIT.

Children's Day was observed at Mechanicstown, Lewistown, and Emmitsburg appointments. The congregations were large; all could not be accommodated with seats, or even standing room. The children acquitted themselves creditably. All present seemed to be much gratified with the service. The collection was nearly double that of last year.

PATAPSCO CIRCUIT.

All of our eight churches are in as good working order as could well be expected. At each of them there is an interesting Sunday-school, equipped with efficient officers and teachers. The work along this line is growing steadily. A deeper interest on the part of parents and guardians of children seems to be manifesting itself. The schools number more than they ever have. On account of the number of schools, our Children's Day must needs begin before and end after the day set apart by the Church. On June 6th we celebrated our Children's Day at St. James Memorial, and at Westwood.

The programme was rendered admirably at either place. The children seemed deeply interested in the exercise, and all publicly expressed their joy over the fact that one day was theirs. The parents fully and freely voice the action of the General Conference pointing to the setting apart of this day specially for the children.

The day was celebrated at Oakland and Mt. Pleasant, June 13. At both of these places we have interesting schools. The former place has labored under many disadvantages. But under the wise management of its efficient superintendent, Brother J. Monroe, it bids fair to become a strong school. Great credit is due the teachers as well as the officers of this school. They succeed in carrying the school through the winter months, which but few schools in the country do.

CAMBRIDGE.

Our Children's Day in Cambridge was a grand success. Last year they had no flowers, no enthusiasm, and hence no money. Our church was beautifully decorated this time, and we send you the whole of the children's collection.

ALFRED SMITH.

TOWSON.

Children's Day was a high day in Zion. We held three services as usual. We excelled last year, when we thought we had almost reached the acme of perfection. The institution proves a great blessing to both the aged and the young.

WATSON CASE.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

ANACOSTIA.

Children's Day was observed in this charge with great enthusiasm. The seating capacity of the church failed to accommodate those who came to the services. Many were compelled to stand during the exercises, and those who failed to get in the church were congregated around the windows on the outside.

We had three services. In the morning the specially prepared service, with responsive readings, published by our Book Concern, was used. The pastor made an address on the educational work of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which the progress of that work was outlined from the very organization of the Church to the present time. There was splendid singing—several addresses and recitations—the programme was thoroughly enjoyable.

In the evening we held the 28th anniversary of the Sunday-school, which consisted of dialogues, recitations, and addresses, interspersed with hymns, anthems, solos—the whole constituting a very beautiful and impressive service.

Under the efficient generalship of Brother H. A. Linger, the faithful superintendent, and his corps of able and devoted assistants, the Sunday-school has attained a strength heretofore unknown in the history of the school—there being at present 250 on the roll, with an average attendance of from 150 to 175, and with an attendance of 201 on Children's Day—the largest attendance ever known since its organization. The little ones, feeling that the Church is specially interested in them, are manifesting more and more interest in the church, and the school is steadily increasing. Every Sabbath we have new accessions to our ranks. The exercises of the day reflected great credit upon the participants and managers. Alto-

gether the day was complete in its delights. These services do good, as they bring the work of the Sunday-school before the public, and they see its workings and benefits.

GRACE, WASHINGTON CITY.

Children's Day at this church was observed with great eclat. The pastor preached in the morning to the children on "How to please God." Heb. xiii, 16. In the evening the exercises by the school were especially interesting. In addition to an excellent musical programme, under the leadership of D. H. Galleher, Esq., the infant class, superintended by Miss Emma Brown, acquitted itself nobly in recitation as well as song.

METROPOLITAN, WASHINGTON CITY.

The Children's Day at the Metropolitan was one of hallowed sweetness to all, in primary, intermediate, junior, and senior classes; and much pleasure was given to those outside of our Sunday-school who were privileged to be present.

Our pastor, Dr. Newman, with his accustomed gladness of heart, spread cheerfulness around him, and with our superintendents, H. O. Hall and T. G. Hensey, gave direction to the exercises, which were beautiful and impressive.

The pastor baptized three nice, noiseless children, and imprinted a kiss on the face of each. Our collection for the Educational Fund was a fair one. The Scripture mottoes, the joyous voices, and bright faces of this Children's Day will be long remembered.

At night a platform meeting was held, at which "American Childhood" was discussed by Judge Snell, T. G. Hensey, A. B. Duvall, and Dr. Newman.

UNION, WASHINGTON CITY.

Children's Day services were held. A sermon to the school was delivered by the pastor at 11 A. M. The programme furnished by the Board of Education (somewhat modified and interspersed with solos, recitations, and brief addresses) was used at night. The services were of a pleasant character. The collection, taken by means of a special envelope, was liberal.

DUNBARTON AVENUE, WEST WASHINGTON.

Children's Day was a complete success. Large congregations, fine singing, with a few choice recitations by the children, an admirable address by Dr. Frysinger, of Baltimore, and a good collection for the cause. The day was also the 67th anniversary of the Sunday-school. The pastor preached in the morning, and the children's exercises were in the evening.

VIRGINIA.

WINCHESTER.

Never were the services of Children's Day in this city more interesting than those of this year.

No effort had been spared on the part of our pastor, superintendent, officers, or scholars to make the day a success. And the result was worthy of the aim.

The morning services consisted of singing by the school, and a sermon to children from the text, "A lad is here," by the pastor, Rev. W. A. Koontz. The discourse, which eminently befitted the occasion, opened with the statement that other Christian Churches were indebted to ours for the original conception and institution of Children's Day.

At night the interest culminated as the programme of speeches, readings, choruses, and solos were elegantly rendered by the school.

An earnest address to parents by the pastor was a marked feature of the evening service. His plea for pure literature, and more of it, in the family was put in earnest words; and the denunciation of the *impure* was no less earnest and emphatic. The congregation in the evening was very large, and much pleased.

WEST VIRGINIA.

MARTINSBURG.

Sunday, June 13, was a day of rejoicing here among the children of God, and the children of God's children. At the morning love-feast Presiding Elder Baker struck the key-note of Christian experience and gave it the Methodist ring. It was re-echoed by young soldiers of the cross and veterans from the field of many conflicts. The excellent discourse at eleven o'clock was highly appreciated by a large congregation. At eight o'clock P. M. the infant department of the Sunday-school—one hundred strong—marched to the front. The exercises were under the direction of their teacher, Mrs. F. Westall, and her assistants, Misses Emma Berry and Myra Kline. The songs and recitations of the little ones delighted their many friends who were present. During the singing of the chorus,

"In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever,"

twenty-one of the little people brought forward bouquets, which were placed in loops that had been concealed among the evergreens entwined around a large wooden cross. Thus the rugged cross was really "changed" and covered with flowers. The exercises closed with a brief but very appropriate address from Rev. J. W. Hedges and—the collection for education.

Our efficient young steward, John A. Weaver, rendered valuable assistance to the committee on decoration.

Major J. H. Bristor is superintendent of the Sunday-school.

A. S. HANK.

GRANTSVILLE.

Services held at Mount Beulah; every one in the large audience seemed to catch the spirit of the occasion, and the service from beginning to end was a grand success. The collection was far in advance of last year.

S. P. ARCHER.

SISTERSVILLE.

Sistersville observed the day, in the morning, in St. Mary's for the first time—service very good, and the collection \$8 12; services in the evening

at Sistersville—a good time ; collection, \$3 30. There is a growing interest in the Sabbath-school on the charge.

N. J. LOWTHER.

CHARLESTON.

The occasion was observed at State Street Church, Charleston, W. Va., and was a joyous day among the children, parents, and friends of the Sabbath-school.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

LE GAREVILLE, JOHN'S ISLAND.

Our lot this year being cast all the way down on the sea-shore, remote from the center of civilization, we got on the alert and took time by the forelock. This was done for several reasons. First, in order to accommodate the large number, and, secondly, there being several appointments in the circuit, we were unable to concentrate at one point. We therefore held our first Children's Day at Wesley Church on the first Sunday in June, the 6th. These children of the sea island acquitted themselves as never before.

The second Sunday (13th) we celebrated the day at St. James Church. Both these churches were decorated with flowers, moss, ivy, and evergreens from our native woods. The programme, as prepared by the Church, was carried out. Between 75 and 80 scholars delivered speeches and dialogues. Their parents and friends were highly delighted. At the latter church four boys, Sabbath-school scholars, were received into full membership in the Church at the close of the services. This was one of the most pleasant features of the day. Our congregations were large yesterday, 20th. We met at Bethlehem Church. The school from Wadmalaw islands, Webster Chapel, united with this one. Two small congregations by this action of unity made a respectable showing. This is the first celebration of the kind ever held here. I do assure you it cost us much hard work and anxiety. Inclosed find \$7.

A. MIDDLETON.

FORESTON.

I take great pleasure in writing you a few lines to inform you of some of our exercises on Children's Day. It was a day highly appreciated by the children and parents. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers, and the exercises were carried out nicely. The singing and reading of the Scripture lessons were grand. The congregation at this place is very small ; it is a kind of mission work, and the neighborhood is very poor ; and if you knew the condition the people are in, you would think that they have done remarkably well.

B. M. PEGNES.

FLORIDA.

JACKSONVILLE.

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Sabbath-school of this city celebrated Children's Day this year in a manner creditable to the school and gratifying to its friends. The day was harmonious throughout ; beginning with a suitable sermon to the children in the morning by the pastor, Rev. S. D.

Paine, followed at night by the children's service. Our church was filled to overflowing, at the latter service many being turned away for want of standing room.

The programme unfolded itself to the congregation smoothly and happily—the introduction of songs and recitations by the children being timely and appropriate, blending with the responsive service without substituting it.

The floral decorations were superb and characteristic of the sunny South. Our collection of \$25 77 shows a marked advance over previous years, and is suggestive of what can be accomplished by a small school alive to the interests of the day. The public educational collection also amounted to \$20 additional, making a total of \$45 77. E. E. HOOKER.

ALABAMA.

BREWTON.

I inclose \$10, the result of our Children's Day collection. We have never had Children's Day before, but I think it one of the best institutions of our Church. We had an enthusiastic time. Thanks to our dear Church for such an institution. DORA HAROLD.

TEXAS.

MILFORD.

In this we send you the proceeds of our Children's Day Fund. Our Children's Day was a grand success. It was the first we ever had by ourselves. The programme was carried out according to the rule. Children's Day sermon was preached by Rev. G. Wilson, pastor in charge, at 11 A. M. At 3 P. M. children's exercises commenced, and general programme. L. H. BLACK.

HEMPSTEAD.

Our Children's Day services were full of interest and instruction, and were followed by good collections. All the stewards and leaders of the church were on hand. J. E. FREEMAN.

CANEY.

Children's Day was observed. Collection was small, but hope you will accept our humble offering. I shall forever try to raise a collection on that day for education, because it is for such a needy cause. Sweet moments hasten when we will give more to deliver our land from the thralldom of ignorance. A. BROWN.

ARKANSAS.

EUREKA SPRINGS.

Those who had the pleasure of being at the Methodist Episcopal church yesterday will long remember the very interesting Children's Day services. The music was appropriate and impressive. The responsive readings were finely rendered. Eight little folk spoke their pieces very creditably to themselves. A most interesting feature of the occasion was

the administration of the beautiful ordinance of baptism to two young ladies. Another pleasant feature was the marching of all the children before the altar to deposit their offerings, which proved to be more than double last year's collection.

TENNESSEE.**HAYSVILLE.**

Children's Day was a high day for our Sunday-school. The children had verses and recitations. The very large crowd present to witness the first observance of Children's Day in this county (Macon) was well pleased with all they saw and heard. And the children—well, their joy was just unbounded, their happiness complete.

As this was the first attempt at keeping Children's Day here, I only asked that all give a little to the cause, hence thirty-five children are represented in the offering I inclose.

W. P. BANKS.

LAWRENCEBURG.

Please accept the sum of \$3 raised on Children's Day. We had a good time. All talk of the grand day and what a good time we had.

A. F. LANE.

ATHENS.

Our Children's Day was a good day with us. The programme was rendered in two sessions. Collections good for us. The children were happy, and every body pleased.

THOMAS BRITTON RUSSELL.

KENTUCKY.

They had a delightful Children's Day on last Sunday at Grace Church, Newport. The pastor, Rev. A. U. Beall, arranged for the reception of one class of probationers of thirty-five, and the baptism of children and adults. The day closed with a large audience. Excellent addresses by Mrs. Dr. Pearne, of Wesley Chapel, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Rev. Mr. Tranter, of Rock River Conference.

Rev. I. T. Walker, of Lexington, reports: "Our Children's Day has come and gone. It was a marked success. We used the programme prepared by the Board of Education, and used it in full. We secured a sufficient number, so that our audience could unite with the school. It was full of interest to us all. The decorations, music, and recitations were exceptionally fine. The collection was good. Our Sunday-school, under the able superintendency of Mr. Hiram Shaw, is doing well. At the close of the service I received eleven into the Church and baptized five. We shall remember with great pleasure the Children's Day of 1886."

DAYTON, CAMPBELL CO.

You will find inclosed \$10 15, the amount of our Children's Day collection. The entire day was devoted to the special interest of the children and young people. What an excellent opportunity this day affords the ministry for emphasizing the subject of higher Christian education! No

form of benevolence promises the Church richer returns than this Children's Day idea. All services yesterday were well attended, well received, and will be long remembered.

S. G. POLLARD.

PARIS.

I inclose to you our Children's Day collection. We had a very disagreeable day for our services. We had made large preparation for the occasion, but, on account of the weather, our attendance was small. But those who made their way through the rain and mud did not regret coming. We had a pleasant time. We are all glad when Children's Day comes.

GEORGE A. SISSLE.

OHIO.

Children's Day was more generally observed this year than ever before. Nearly all the Methodist churches were bright with children and flowers. Our columns are not sufficient to report in detail the many delightful services.—*Western Christian Advocate*.

Children's Day was observed with unusual interest at Wayne Avenue Methodist Church, Lockland, Rev. J. A. Story, pastor. One of the most interesting features of the occasion was the baptism of thirty children.

Children's Day at Hartwell was a great success. The pastor, Rev. Wm. Macafee, delivered an effective discourse in the morning. The children's service in the evening was most creditable, all that could be desired. The exercises embraced recitations and singing by the scholars, and addresses by the pastor and Mr. C. H. Rust. The collection amounted to \$27, being a large increase over any preceding year.

It was observed June 13 at St. Paul Church, Dayton. The pastor preached to the children at 10:30 A. M., and an original programme was rendered in the evening. About 1,200 people witnessed the exercises, and a good collection was taken. It was a most delightful day.

Children's Day was observed in Second Street Church, Zanesville. The Sunday-school now numbers near four hundred and fifty, and was never before in so prosperous a condition. Its morning session was a very interesting one, and largely attended. At the 10:45 service S. A. Keen addressed a full house on the theme "What Meaneth this Service?" The Children's Day services proper were at 3 P. M. The house was crowded, and the exercises were of an unusually interesting character. The services of the day closed with an "Epworth Hymnal" praise and song service in the evening, which was largely attended.

Children's Day was observed by the Sabbath-school at Thornville, New Salem Circuit, Ohio Conference. In the morning the pastor, Rev. P. L. Mark, preached to the children. In the evening a programme, arranged by a committee appointed for the purpose, was rendered by the school to the delight and satisfaction of an audience that filled the church to overflowing. The exercises by the primary class were particularly good.

CENTRAL CHURCH, CLEVELAND.

Children's Day was profitably observed. In the morning varied exercises filled the hour, including the baptism of twelve children and reception into membership of the Church of fourteen persons. In the evening the most notable feature was the admirable recitation by the Look-Up Legion, numbering twenty-four children, of the Apostles' Creed, Ten Commandments, Ten Points of Doctrine of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Catechism, the first and twenty-third Psalms, and the distribution of gold badges to twenty-four members of the Legion. The Sunday-school, under the direction of the Hon. Geo. H. Foster, is prosperous. The collection for the Educational Society was \$26. The occasion was memorable.

SECOND CHURCH, AKRON.

Morning hour devoted to a discourse on Education by the pastor; in the evening the Children's Day service was given. Collection for the cause of education quite liberal. Exercises conducted by Joseph Thomas, the newly elected superintendent.

GIRARD.

Children's Day was appropriately observed by special services in the afternoon and evening. The first half of the regular programme and a sermon by the pastor made up the afternoon services. The church was filled to overflowing at both meetings.

SAINT PAUL'S, CINCINNATI.

Children's Day was wonderfully well observed in this church. The exercises also celebrated the sixty-fourth anniversary of the school. Upon the platform with the pastor sat the present superintendent and Father Hutson E. Hughes, the oldest living superintendent. He was elected in 1837.

NEW WATERFORD.

Inclosed please find Children's Day collection. It was the first Children's Day ever celebrated here, and was an occasion of much enjoyment and profit to all concerned. We could have but one service, and the only objection we heard was that it (the service) was too short.

EDWIN F. FREASE.

WORTHINGTON.

Children's Day was observed in all the four churches composing this charge, your programme being used in each. The people, especially the children, were delighted with the exercises. I hand you herewith \$17 50, which is nearly six times the amount reported from this charge last year. May there be such an increase all along the line, is the sincere wish of

D. C. THOMAS.

WEST JEFFERSON.

Inclosed you will find our Children's Day collection (\$29) for the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church. I see by your reports that this is more than was paid last year by any charge in this Conference.

I don't understand this thing : why the large and wealthy charges report only \$10 or \$20 to you, when they celebrate Children's Day very conspicuously, and certainly might take liberal collections. We had a splendid time. I had to take two Sundays, as we have three schools on the charge. I organized for a good big collection, and we have by far surpassed any thing that has ever been done on this day for education on this charge.

J. M. RIFE.

ABERDEEN CIRCUIT.

Our Children's Day was a blessing to our community, and by it the hearts of many were made glad. Children's Day in our church is the day of all days. It is a day that all of our churches and Sunday-schools should regard. We send you our collection.

J. H. JACKSON.

INDIANA.

INDIANAPOLIS.

Children's Day at Simpson Chapel was a very nice time. Addresses were given by Rev. A. A. Price, the pastor, and Mr. J. Hill. The attendance was large. All contributed liberally. Two joined the Church.

RISING SUN.

The day was observed for the first time at the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rising Sun. It was a grand success in the decorations, its exercises, its collection, and the good impression made on the congregation and church. It was a day of pleasure and real profit long to be remembered.

OSCEOLA.

Children's Day service was a success. Much is due to the devotion of the superintendent, Miss Helen Leonard.

M. H. SMITH.

VINCENNES.

The various classes had each been assigned a part on the programme, and all acquitted themselves with credit. The music was fine. The house was full both afternoon and night. Collection good.

OWENSVILLE.

Children's Day service was a grand success with us last Sabbath. It was the first time for this work, and we hope for a much larger collection next year. The excellent programme published by the Book Concern was presented by the school in a most pleasing and creditable manner. All hail to Children's Day! May it prove to be more and more a blessing to the Church and the cause of education!

H. C. CLIPPINGER.

LA PORTE.

We had a good Children's Day on my little circuit. At one of the points the display in the way of floral decorations was the best I ever saw. All went off nicely. Hoping to do more in future, and wishing you abundant success in the good work, I remain ever gratefully yours,

S. B. GRIMES.

POSEYVILLE.

A very pleasant and interesting Children's Day service was held in our church at Poseyville on Sunday morning, the 20th inst. This is a part of the Owensville Circuit, and was the first time the service was ever held at this point. This circuit will have a very creditable collection for educational purposes.

GOSPORT.

The day was celebrated at Gosport, June 20, and is said to have been *the best* ever held there. The programme published by the Book Concern was used in part. The service was divided into two parts, one in the morning and one in the evening. Rev. R. A. Kemp, pastor.

BATTLE GROUND.

At Battle Ground the day was a little damp in the morning, but ended delightfully amid the rejoicing of both the old and the young. "Symbols of Wisdom" was used in the evening with universal satisfaction. At the morning hour Pastor Slutz preached to boys and girls, using objects to impress truths. The day was a success in every particular.

ILLINOIS.

CHILDREN'S DAY.—This annual day, dedicated to the young folks, was celebrated with more than usual animation throughout the North-west on June 13. The weather seems to have been every-where propitious. Flowers, birds, children's songs, and short addresses made the day everywhere exceedingly joyous. We give below the chief points of interest at each church from which we have a report:

Condensation is, of course, necessary, and our aim and expectation touch only the grouped spectacle of a church that has at last caught a glimpse of that which Jesus Christ saw so plainly. Our news, therefore, is shaped to show the general Church in motion, rather than to print details of a local celebration.

The children are bound to take this world, it would seem. They nearly captured and possessed the Church on the second June Sunday. By the attention, affection, and common sense thus indicated, the Church, through the children, seems to be entering a new era of power and conquest. As we have already noted, other churches are being influenced. Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Baptists, and even Unitarians, see the immense power potentially shadowed forth. We give the briefest hints of Methodist celebrations.

Several pastors utilized the day to receive children into church membership. Dr. Kidder, in the *MANUAL* for April last, alludes to that point, and for several years the public baptism of babes has been administered by many pastors on that day. The Protestant Church is not in danger of extremes in appointing "saints' day" and formal religious feasts. That abuse comes through designing priests and ignorant peoples. Christ's Church must be holy, and all that is genuinely beautiful and joyous and attractive is twin to holiness. Glum preachers repel children, and grumpy,

formal churches never attract Christ's little ones. The bride of Christ should attract all ages, just as genuine homes do so. Never before 1886 has there been such a general celebration of Children's Day. Begin now to prepare for thrice as general a jubilee in 1887.—*North-western Christian Advocate*.

WESTERN AVENUE CHURCH, CHICAGO.

At the Western Avenue Church, Chicago, the house was thronged. The floral decorations were costly and exquisitely tasteful, and were afterward sent to the Cook County Hospital. Pastor Burns preached to the children in the morning on "The child grew." A chorus of forty girls, led by Mrs. Burns, was one of the attractive features. The afternoon service consisted of a choice programme of music, recitations, and other exercises. This school has had an average attendance since Jan. 1 of 621, and is under charge of J. L. Whitlock, a rare superintendent. The evening was especially devoted to young men and women. Addresses were made by the pastor, and by Mrs. Burns and Rev. Henry Deitz. The young people of this church are numerous and active, and form a prominent feature of the flourishing congregation.

WABASH AVENUE CHURCH.

In Wabash Avenue Church the morning was given to the children, several of whom received baptism. T. W. Harvey presided. The altar rail and platform were covered with plants, and each scholar received one at the close. Pastor Bland delivered an address on "Modesty, the lesson of the flowers." Collection, \$24.

TRINITY CHURCH.

Trinity Church, with its serried ranks of interested parents and teachers, and its beautiful groups of children, was one huge breathing and palpitating bouquet of humanity. A fine programme, royal music, banners, roses, recitations, addresses, and elaborate appointments were just a little beyond any thing in previous years. "Marie Chapel" sent its hundreds, who were welcomed by other hundreds in the home school. One thousand glowing, wriggling, budding, happy youngsters fairly beamed in happiness. The sight was worth a journey.

ADA STREET CHURCH.

At Ada Street Church the auditorium was adorned with flowers, wild and cultivated. Pastor R. S. Cantine preached a soul-stirring sermon. In the afternoon the school devoted one hour to lesson study, and then marched into the audience-room in numbers about 300. Then followed a delightful service. Collection, \$25.

SHEFFIELD AVENUE CHURCH.

At Sheffield Avenue Church recitations, addresses, and a speech from Rev. D. O. Fox, missionary to India, were features. Collection, \$20. The school has nearly doubled during the year.

SOUTH PAULINA STREET CHURCH.

In South Paulina Street Church the children rendered the programme satisfactorily. The service was interesting. The church was filled, and

the exercises a success. Pastor Joseph Caldwell preached in the morning on the importance of training youth.

LINCOLN STREET CHURCH.

The day was joyful at Lincoln Street Church. Pastor W. B. Leach baptized children and received members. The successful services were crowned by a large collection.

AMBOY.

At Amboy the day was one of the best ever had. Never was the church so bright and beautiful; a gorgeous shield of the richest flowers, a large star in white, and a fine floral sickle are worthy of mention. "Bible Symbols of Wisdom" was rendered by the entire congregation in the morning, and a number of children were baptized. In the evening the children and young people were seated among the flowers, upon raised seats facing the audience. The little people had the largest place. Exercises were fresh, the music new. Congregations were large, and the collection the largest ever taken.

R. H. WILKINSON.

ELM TREE CIRCUIT.

The Elm Tree Circuit, Galesburg District, Central Illinois, observed the day for the first time. The three appointments united at the Elm Tree Church and held services morning and afternoon, a bountiful repast intervening. The children did well, and the recitations were chiefly from the supplement. Five little girls came upon the platform, one at a time, each repeating a stanza, holding a large letter before her, which all together formed the blessed name "Jesus." In concert they then repeated one stanza of "Saviour, like a shepherd lead us," after which they sang "Happy Children," from the Epworth Hymnal. Besides these there were two orations and two essays. The exercises, as a whole, were interesting, profitable, and well rendered, and greatly encouraged the heart of Pastor A. L. Shute.

GRANT PARK.

At Grant Park the services were held in the morning, and in the afternoon at Sherburnville, taking the place of the regular preaching services. In the afternoon the church was filled to its utmost capacity. Amid singing birds and children, and fragrant flowers and smiling faces, the people had a most enjoyable and profitable time. Collections were good.

L. MCLEAN.

PLEASANT GROVE.

At Pleasant Grove the day was a pleasant success. The programme consisted of responsive readings, recitations, songs by the little ones and a quartette, and a short address by the pastor. Collection twice as large as that of last year. In the afternoon, at Rosefield, another appointment on this charge, about the same thing was repeated to a good, full house. A liberal collection was taken.

CAIRO.

Our Children's Day was a success, notwithstanding the rainy weather. A magnificent pyramid of flowers was erected, the front face having upon

its base the word "Wisdom" in delicate white flowers; in the center was a star within a circle formed of the same, and near the top was a beautiful cross. The programme sent out by the Board was the basis of our exercises. Two Sunday-school scholars were baptized; five probationers were received into full membership; one scholar was received on probation; and 18 names were added to our temperance, anti-tobacco, and anti-profanity pledge. The collection was an increase over last year.

E. A. HOYT.

BUNKER HILL.

Our Children's Day was a complete success. The day was fine. We used the programme almost in full. We devoted the entire day to the service. Our people were delighted and instructed.

God bless Children's Day, and make it a vital force in saving the children and youth to the Church and to God.

C. P. WILSON.

FREEPORT.

Sunday, June 13, 1886, was observed by the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Freeport, Ill., as Children's Day. The day was beautiful, not a cloud in the sky, and congregations large.

After the sermon in the morning on the "Relation of Children to the Church," seven infants and children were brought forward for baptism. It was a touching sight.

There was a sermon to the children in the afternoon, and an interesting service of recitation and song in the evening. The parents of the children and friends of the Sunday-school were present in large numbers, completely filling the house. Superintendent I. F. Kleckner was happy, and so was every body else. The day, with us, is growing in favor. We circulated the red letter to awaken an interest, and think it a great help. Hope you will issue one next year. Our collection was the largest it has ever been.

A Children's Day was observed by other than Methodist churches in the city, but not in the interest of education.

Our Children's Day is a help to the Church in more ways than one.

O. F. MATTISON.

MINONK.

We devoted June 13 entirely to the children. The official programme was rendered in the morning and proved a delightful service. In the evening, music, recitations, and readings from the wee ones filled up the hour, and all retired from our beautifully decorated church fully convinced that Children's Day is one of the splendid belongings of our superb Church organization. Collection in advance of last year nearly 10 per cent.

L. F. CULLOM.

ROSSVILLE.

Children's Day services were held three times in this charge yesterday. The pastor addressed the congregation on the origin and design of Children's Day, and the educational enterprises of the Church. The speaking,

recitations, and singing by the children, and decorations, were of the highest order. Church was full and every body happy.

M. M. DAVIDSON.

SPRINGFIELD.

We observed Children's Day at the Second Church last Sunday and had a delightful time. The day is getting a stronger hold each year upon the Church and the public. I inclose the amount of our collection.

RICHARD GEAR HOBBS.

MARENGO.

Inclosed find draft of \$25 for Children's Day collection yesterday, being an advance over last year. The people are getting to understand the character of the Children's Fund. Our service yesterday was impressive and joyful. The published programme and the Annual Report were great helps.

W. H. SMITH.

MICHIGAN.

KALAMAZOO.

At Kalamazoo Pastor A. M. Gould baptized eighteen children in the First Church. The day was full of interest to children and adults.

PENTWATER.

Our Children's Day was the finest ever held in Pentwater. The floral decorations were rich. Among the designs were the dates 1872 at left of altar, and 1886 at the right, the figures of dark pansies with a ground-work of white roses. The morning service was a sermon to the children and young people from Prov. iv, 7. The evening was occupied by the children, using the programme, with variations. At the close of the programme I gave as collection address a blackboard diagram, showing the results from Children's Day Collections: 1. From the whole Church. 2. From Michigan Conference. 3. From Pentwater, as taken from your reports, which I have from the first.

I explained the diagrams to the audience, saying nothing about lines for 1886 till the last, and then asked them if we should double the one for 1885 this year, showing the effect it would have on the other diagrams if all made a similar advance over last year. The address was not over seven minutes long. I think we failed in one thing, and that was in appointing little girls for collectors. The house was overflowing, and the little folks being somewhat timid, did not give all an opportunity to give; whereas, if larger girls had passed the plates and gone slow, according to instructions, we might have received a quarter if not a third more.

JOHN C. BEACH.

GREENVILLE.

The first general observance of Children's Day on this work. At one point, where the people are very poor, twenty cents was collected. As that amount was handed to me I thought of the widow's mite, and I said, "Surely in the sight of God this offering is just as acceptable as was hers."

JOHN B. KNOTT.

HASTINGS.

Another Children's Day has passed with perfect success, and I have the pleasure of inclosing draft for \$26 12, an increase over report of last year. Our children were happy, and the programme furnished by the Educational Board very instructive. May our mite be one of the *littles* that go to swell this fund, and may it, taken as a whole, be of lasting benefit to the Church!

CHAS. W. JONES.

GRAYLING.

Please find inclosed report for my Children's Day collection. I have preached three years on three different charges. I have sent you now three collections aggregating \$16; \$11 of this was from missionary charges where there have never been, before or since, any collection taken, excepting one taken here a number of years ago. I intend to keep up as I have begun. I consider that the collection is a small part of Children's Day, and I try to make it influence the young to efforts for a higher education and make them think *they* have an interest in this fund.

G. M. BIGELOW.

WISCONSIN.

ANTIGO.

The exercises in the Methodist Episcopal church on the morning of Children's Day were by the little children, and by the youth in the evening. The church was tastefully decorated, and the interest manifested great. Very small children rendered choice selections at the organ, sang together as a choir, and almost exclusively took charge of the morning services. Care was taken that a considerable number of the little ones be enlisted in the exercises rather than a few, as is sometimes the case.

Children's day has a warm place in the regards of the people here, and will doubtless be annually observed as long as the Methodist Episcopal Church exists in Antigo.

J. I. FOOT.

At Appleton the day was a splendid success. Among the interesting features was an address by Miss Faville, a teacher in Clark University, Ga. She gave several instances of heroic struggles of young colored people to secure an education. Pastor Stein baptized ten children at the close of the morning service.

The jubilee was appropriately observed at Black River Falls, the entire day being given to the children. Church crowded at each service. The interest increases each year. G. W. L. Brown, pastor.

At Clintonville the enjoyable services included the official programme, recitations, short addresses, and the baptism of six young probationers. In the evening a Sunday-school concert; collection, \$12—twice that of any preceding year. The Sunday-school has grown fifty per cent. the past year. A. Smith, pastor.

At Markesan more zeal and enthusiasm were manifested by Sunday-school workers than on any former occasion. There was a display of

American flags, and a beautiful banner made by the young ladies was suspended from the ceiling, bearing the inscription, "The young for Jesus through Christian education." The programme was divided into two services, afternoon and evening. The pastor being absent on a vacation, the services were conducted by the superintendent, W. R. Brown.

At the Salem and Walnut Charge, Rev. N. J. Alpin, pastor, there was a fine display of flowers and good singing. The official programme was used, and the collection largely increased over last year.

At La Grange the Church programme was used, with added exercises. Collection liberal. Pastor, J. W. Barnett.

At Berlin the service consisted of songs and recitations, closing with an address on Education by the pastor. The programme was well-rendered and greatly enjoyed. In the evening a similar service was held at Prairie Church, where an equally well-filled house listened to an equally well rendered programme. Collections for the day, \$19.

At Hart Prairie the morning service consisted of a sermon by Pastor White and the baptism of children. In the evening the Sabbath-school gave a good concert. This is the first time the day has been celebrated here, and every body was enthusiastic.

At Reedsburg, where H. P. Blake is pastor, the day was profitably observed. Collection more than three times that of last year.

A crowded house, a good time, and a generous collection are reported from Campbellsport.

EAU CLAIRE.

The preparations for the observance of Children's Day at the Lake Street Methodist Episcopal Church were on a most liberal scale. No sermon was preached, the exercises consisting of songs, recitations, etc., by the children. Miss French sang a solo which was highly appreciated by all. A very impressive feature of the morning's service was the baptism of eight infants, two of them being grandchildren of the pastor, A. M. Pilcher.

PLATTEVILLE.

Inclose find draft for \$30. The children were wonderfully pleased with the exercises of the day, as our collection will show. Our plan of giving was a fine success. The whole day was given to this work. The children's exercises were in the evening. We arranged to call the classes as we do in Sunday-school. One of the pupils appointed by the leader brought the offering of the class forward, and placed it in a beautifully decorated silver dish, directly in front of the pulpit. While this was being done one of the teachers read, very clearly and distinctly, passages of Scripture from the Bible in regard to giving. The effect was fine, and the vast audience was deeply impressed. We shall improve on this plan next year, namely, allow the scholars to begin to collect their offering three or four weeks before Children's Day. We shall try to do better each year. Pastor B. E. Wheeler baptized two children and two adults, and received two into the Church.

W. T. JENNINGS.

WEST BEND.

Yesterday was the best day of all the year. Our church was crowded. We used the beautiful programme and supplement published by the Book Concern. The children were jubilant, and all went away enthusiastic in their praise of Children's Day.

JAS. A. JOHNSON.

MINNESOTA.

FIRST CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS.

In the First Church, Minneapolis, the event was a grand success. Large congregations, good music, and a sermon by Pastor John Stafford were features. Fifteen children were baptized. The concert in the evening by the Sunday-school was a great success. Collection, \$30.

TAYLOR STREET CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS.

At Taylor Street Church, Minneapolis, Pastor Kephart addressed audiences morning and evening. In the evening a concert was held, the programme being that sent out by the Church authorities.

AUSTIN.

At Austin the day was well observed. The attendance morning and evening was limited only by the seating capacity. The official programme was rendered in two parts, giving plenty of time for recitations by the children. The collections were good.

CASTLE ROCK.

Pastor G. H. Way preached to the children, and baptized three at the close of the service. The singing was by the Sunday-school.

MONEY CREEK.

At Money Creek the day was a success, and the collection greater than apportionment. W. A. Putnam, pastor; E. J. Russell, superintendent.

HEBRON.

In Hebron the day, observed for the first time, was a delight.

ST. CLOUD.

Children's Day was a pleasant success at the Methodist Episcopal Church in this place. W. M. Martin, the pastor, preached an instructive sermon to the children in the morning. In the evening the church was crowded with an attentive audience, and the children, under the direction of the pastor, gave an attractive and pleasing entertainment, consisting of songs, readings, and recitations. Each teacher had appointed a scholar to serve as collector to solicit for the Children's Fund. At the close of the recitation "Five Pennies Each," these collectors came forward and reported. The system worked admirably, yielding a result of \$10 50, more than double the collection of last year.

OWATONNA.

At Owatonna the day was successfully observed. Pastor Hair preached in the forenoon to the young on the "Influence of Little Things;" Sunday-school concert in the evening, with recitations and singing, followed by a good collection.

KEYSTONE AND LE SUEUR.

The churches at Keystone and Le Sueur observed the occasion with interest. June 6 was the date at Keystone; regular day at Le Sueur. The collections good.

W. H. BARKALOO.

MARION.

At Marion the congregation was large, and the programme unusually interesting and well carried out by the children. Collection, \$6.

H. J. HARRINGTON.

WATSEKA.

Celebrated at two points. The Church service was used, and the well-rendered programme and fine recitations delighted old and young. Deeper interest will be taken in education on this charge.

I. H. SNELL.

SPRING GROVE, CEDAR MILLS, GREENLEAF AND HUTCHINSON.

At Spring Grove, Cedar Mills, Greenleaf, and Hutchinson the congregation rendered the programme furnished by the Board of Education in good style. Collection good.

ANOKA.

We devoted the entire day to the work of interesting our children and young folks in the cause of Christian education. We double the collection of last year, and more than double the interest of the young people in the grand enterprise.

C. M. HEARD.

PRESTON.

Please find inclosed \$8 20, being our Children's Day and educational collection for this year on this charge, unless I should get another mission school interested in that line.

We had a good day. Our church was full—some standing and some went away in the evening for lack of room.

ALFRED CRESSEY.

DAKOTA.

JAMESTOWN.

I want to say that here in Dakota, amid the perfume of flowers and the songs of birds, Children's Day has come and gone, and left a bright spot in the memory of all. It was a glad day all through. Children were happy, and church crowded to the utmost.

WM. F. COOK.

YANKTON.

A deep religious interest pervaded the beautiful services. Nine children were baptized and one received on probation.

C. E. HAGER.

COLUMBIA.

Though not a year old the Sunday-school observed the day, "Bible Symbols of Wisdom" and "Hints and Helps" being used. The programme was well executed, the singing good, and the decorations tasteful.

W. F. MINTY.

GRAND FORKS.

The day was a great success. Nine children were baptized. Large audiences morning and evening. Children's Day has become one of the institutions of our Church here.

F. DORAN.

MONTANA.

HELENA.

Our Children's Day was a grand occasion. It is certainly as popular in the Rocky Mountains as anywhere else.

R. E. SMITH.

NEBRASKA.

SEWARD.

The day was every thing that we could ask. The children were happy and all were pleased. Children's Day is growing in favor with this congregation.

GEO. M. MOREY.

CARLTON.

Children's Day was a success with us. The church was beautifully decorated. The day was fine. The children were happy, and performed their parts well. The crowd was immense. Collection good.

DAVID FETZ.

FAIRFIELD.

We observed Children's Day. Gave the entire day to the children. Attendance good. Interest good. In the evening three children joined the Church.

C. A. LEWIS.

EDGAR.

We had a delightful day and a crowded church. The school never did better either in execution of programme or in amount of collection.

J. R. WOODCOCK.

FAIRMONT.

Children's Day was with us a great delight. The programme was original. The house was filled with fragrance, songs, and happy hearts, and all of us are glad. Collection, \$13 05.

JAMES K. MAXFIELD.

DEWITT.

Celebrated the day for the first time—a grand success. Being a new town on the prairie, the people gathered wild roses and other flowers from the prairie, and as a result had a most beautiful floral decoration—a cross of wild roses.

H. M. LANEY.

RISING CITY.

Morning and evening were given to the children. Both services were well sustained, and attended by overflowing houses. The collection was much larger than last year.

G. H. MOULTON.

LEIGH.

Children's Day was observed here in a way which manifested the interest of the people. The little church was filled to its utmost capacity, and crowds thronged the door and windows. The regular programme was used.

J. CREWS.

IOWA.

IOWA CITY.

At Iowa City the day was a fine success. The morning was given to the service under the direction of Superintendent Swisher. The committee on decoration performed their duty with rare taste, and the children did admirably. The large church was crowded. Collection, \$15. At the close of the service fifteen children were baptized by Pastor Brindell, and a former pastor, P. P. Ingalls, closed the exercises. At night the recently organized Oxford League made their first public appearance with an appropriate and interesting programme, "The world's indebtedness under God to the Wesleys" being the prevailing theme.

DAVENPORT.

At Davenport the day in the Fourteenth Street Church, Rev. W. Lease, pastor, was a grand success. The service published by Cranston & Stowe was well rendered, and the collection good. At Spring Street Chapel the mission school in connection with the Fourteenth Street Church held its service in the afternoon. The house was full and the programme excellent.

CRESTON.

At Creston Pastor W. H. W. Rees preached an appropriate sermon and baptized ten children. At the close of the Sunday-school lesson each class made its contribution in a cornucopia, and these were suspended to a large heart hung at the rear of the platform under the motto "Our Offering." The infant class gave a fine recitation. In the evening a Sunday-school concert was given. The children performed their parts excellently. Collection, \$25. The day was not only a great event for children, but for the older folks as well.

FARLEY.

The church at Farley was tastefully decorated in honor of the blessed day, and the children deserve praise for their part of the entertainment.

RODMAN AND WEST BEND.

At Rodman and West Bend the services were all that could be desired. The infant classes did unusually well. The audiences were too large for the buildings. Rev. L. M. Ray is pastor.

WYOMING.

The church was crowded morning and evening at Wyoming. Collection, \$14. Seven were added to the Church, and one child baptized by Pastor R. W. Coates.

JESUP.

In Jesup the programme of Rev. C. S. H. Dunn was used, with other recitations, and Pastor Taylor delivered an address.

HUBBARD.

In Hubbard the programme was successfully carried out. A good address was given by E. C. Swan. Collection, \$18.

SHEFFIELD.

At Sheffield the day passed off with more interest than last year. In the morning the church was crowded to hear a brief discourse from Pastor J. N. Fawcett to Sunday-school teachers and parents. The service in the evening was by the children, in which the official programme was largely followed. The church was crowded. Great credit is due to the efficient superintendent, H. D. Hocking, for the success of the enterprise.

MARION.

In Marion Pastor Way preached in the morning. There was a children's love-feast in the afternoon, conducted by Superintendent Brownell. In the evening the children had their exercises. On the previous Saturday the graves of the dead of the Sabbath-school were decorated.

CLERMONT.

On Clermont Charge the day was a grand success. Two services were held at Clermont and one at Elgin. The entertainments were good, and the audiences large.

ROCK RAPIDS.

At Rock Rapids, C. E. Cline, pastor, a glorious time; three children were baptized, and in the evening three received on probation. Collections, \$28 69. O. P. Miller, superintendent, and all the teachers worthy of mention.

EAGLE GROVE.

At Eagle Grove Rev. C. B. Winter, the pastor, delivered a sermon in the morning on "God and the beautiful," and in the evening the children sang and recited. Collection, \$9 35. The church building was destroyed last year by a tornado just after Children's Day, and the new and beautiful building was enjoyed all the more in memory of that event.

WATERLOO.

The day was delightfully celebrated at Grace Church, Waterloo. Pastor J. H. Rhea baptized twenty-seven children. Collection, \$15 50.

CLEAR LAKE.

On Clear Lake Circuit the day was observed, and was an occasion of joy to old and young. The collection exceeded the apportionment.

RANDOLPH.

At Randolph, where Rev. A. H. Rusk is pastor, there were crowded houses, deep interest, and good services and collections.

YORK PRAIRIE AND INLAND.

At York Prairie and Inland the programme was well rendered, and the collection double that of former years.

PRAIRIEBURG.

On the Prairieburg Circuit the anniversary was celebrated at two points with great interest and profit. Rev. E. Lee, pastor.

IOWA FALLS.

At Iowa Falls, where Rev. B. C. Cory is pastor, service was held in the opera house before a large congregation in the morning.

GOSHEN.

Children's Day at Goshen was a success, as it will always be where the plans of the Educational Board are followed.

I. M. O'FLYNG.

BURLINGTON.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday-school sends you \$20 for Children's Educational Fund. I inclose check. The collection on same day for the Conference Educational Society from the Church was also \$20. We used your programme for exercises, but did not deduct any thing from collection to pay for them. The Sunday-school pays for them independently. We had a good day and all enjoyed it. Our Sunday-school superintendent's name is William J. Samson.

J. W. ALDERMAN.

BLOOMFIELD.

We adopted "Progress" as our motto on Children's Day, and it was an inspiration to us. The exercises were divided between the children and adults. Over the pulpit was the word "Progress" painted on canvas, and back of the stand the words, "Children's Day Devoted to Education," also painted on canvas. The plan of taking one dollar contributions was tried, and it doubled our collection. We are anxious to hear from the rest of the world to see if progress was made all along the line. The cause is growing with us, and the people are in sympathy with it. One of our speakers said it was the grandest enterprise started by the Church in the last fifty years, and he expressed the common sentiment of our Church. Hold up the banner of Christian education, and the Church will rally around you.

D. H. PAYNE.

WHAT CHEER.

Yesterday was a good day for us. We carried out the Children's Day programme, which was nicely rendered. Children's Day is becoming a popular day with us. Our church was not large enough to hold the people. Every body enjoys it. The beautiful flowers and the happy children make every body happy. We wait for it next year.

S. C. SMITH.

DOW CITY.

We had a fine day, house full of young folks. Baptized several children in connection with the service. I find a very interesting feature to be the reception of children to membership in the Church from my "Children's Class" of baptized children. My class has in it over fifty. During my three years here I have taken quite a number into the Church from this Children's Class, and they are growing to be earnest workers in the Church.

H. H. BARTON.

MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS.

Goode Avenue had a grand time on Children's Day. The attendance was the largest ever seen in our church, and the programme, "Bible Symbols of Wisdom," was heartily appreciated by all. The collection would have been much larger had it not been for the great effort we are making for a new church.

J. P. MARLATT.

ST. LOUIS.

Children's Day at Wesley Chapel was a grand occasion for the young people of the church. Rev. Dr. Marshall Taylor was present and delivered addresses to our people. \$39 30 was raised.

F. H. SMALL.

LEBANON.

Our Children's Day services were well attended, and great interest was manifested in them by the crowded audiences morning and evening. There were fifteen baptisms; thirty-eight probationers were received to full membership, and a cash collection of \$34.

H. R. MILLER.

KIDDER.

We observed Children's Day, using our programmes, and enjoying a grand concert in the evening, under the direction of Mrs. E. P. Baldwin, the superintendent, who is an earnest, faithful, successful worker. The music, under direction of Prof. Burmeister, was grand. The day was one of great profit for the adults as well as the children.

J. M. McDONALD.

KANSAS CITY.

Yesterday was Children's Day most emphatically with Grand Avenue Church. The whole day was devoted gladly to services with and for the children.

The decorations of the church were beautiful, and the exercises were listened to with interest by crowds that completely packed the building.

The knowledge that this charge led the whole Church last year in the Children's Fund collection, and your kind words of congratulation, gave us a good impulse toward the giving for this year. We expected a big collection, and I think none of us were surprised when, at the close of the day, we found that we had in cash and subscriptions *three hundred dollars* (\$300) as our Children's Day offering for education.

In the afternoon we had a varied programme, in which the children took a prominent part. Rev. Henry Hopkins, the neighboring pastor of the First Congregational Church, spoke some very earnest and inspiring words to the children.

Brother Reed, our excellent superintendent, was at his best, and did grand service.

The best of all was, a deep religious interest was manifested all day, and we believe great good was done.

I am, my dear teacher of former years, ever yours,

C. W. PARSONS.

LOUISIANA CIRCUIT.

Children's Day was an occasion of deep interest. A sermon was preached in the morning by the pastor, and the singing and recitations in the afternoon and evening were very fine.

HENRY SOUTH.

JASPER.

Children's Day was observed by the Sunday-schools, with a large audience present. We used the programme entire. All enjoyed the service.

M. B. WOOD.

CENTRALIA.

Children's Day was a success. Our church was crowded. The printed programme was followed with a few slight changes. This is certainly a peerless method of enlisting the children and youth in the service of the Master.

C. C. WOODS.

OREGON.

Inclosed find Children's Day collection. The day was a grand success. The children are enthusiastic over the collection, and say they will double it next year.

C. W. MILLER.

KANSAS.

WILSON.

Our Children's Day was a grand success in every particular, the children performed their parts well, and it proved a feast of good things to them. We baptized three and received four into the Church.

W. H. WILLIAMS.

DODGE CITY.

Children's day at this place was a pleasant affair. The programme was rendered in two parts, and both morning and evening services were highly appreciated.

G. LOWTHER.

COFFEYVILLE.

I send you herewith the proceeds of Children's Day in this charge. We followed the programme, "Bible Symbols of Wisdom," taking Part One in the morning, with sermon from pastor on "Behold the fowls of the air" and "Consider the lilies of the field;" and Part Two in the evening, with two short addresses. We had a delightful, successful day all the way through.

HUGH MCBIRNEY.

LYNDON.

Our Children's Day service was largely attended. The church was crowded to overflowing. The children were happy and performed their part of the programme in a commendable spirit. A large number of friends were present and witnessed the exercises with much interest.

E. F. HOLLAND.

OSKALOOSA.

Children's day with us was a success. We divided the service and delighted the people, both old and young, morning and evening.

C. G. CRYSLER.

GRANTVILLE.

We observed Children's Day at three appointments on this charge, at Grantville, Thompsonville, and Fairview. It was a grand success at Thompsonville. They said it was the largest congregation that was ever in the church. The children took great delight in it. Several non-professors took quite an interest in it and labored hard to make it a success. We are looking forward to the next Children's Day.

W. L. MORRIS.

PEABODY.

I inclose herewith a draft for \$15 85, the net amount of Children's Day collection. The whole day was given to the young people and children. The infant-class exercises, recitations, songs, etc., of the little ones were greatly enjoyed by every body. Our beautiful church was crowded to its utmost capacity. It was a grand day. All our sister churches in the city fell into line and observed similar services. W. W. WOODSIDE.

INDEPENDENCE.

Sunday, June 13, was a glad day for the Sunday-school of First Methodist Episcopal Church, Independence. The decorations were the finest ever known here, and the collection the largest—\$35 net, which amount is already on its way to begin its happy mission.

A. CULLISON.

MANHATTAN AND WAMEGO.

Children's Day was observed with all the enjoyment and fidelity that Supplement No. 1 afforded, with recitations, songs, and speeches. Our church was too small for the occasion. The day was truly enjoyed by the children, and was a source of inspiration to older people. The children say, Let rosy June come again soon.

A. W. WHITE.

COLORADO.

CENTRAL CITY.

We kept Children's Day last Sabbath, giving the entire day to the work. Brother H. G. Shuck, our former superintendent, had charge, and did his part nobly and well. We followed in part the programme as published by our Book Concern. Our church was tastefully decorated. Flowers up in these mountains are scarce and hard to get, but by borrowing house plants we generally manage to have a fair supply. At the evening service many went away for want of room. The collection given by the Sunday-school in the afternoon is \$14, which find inclosed. This is an advance on last year of nearly forty per cent. There are but few services in which the whole people are more interested than the Children's Day, and I think the interest in it is growing.

F. S. BEGGS.

LONGMONT.

We had a royal time on Children's Day. Herein find \$13, the financial result of it. Used programme in the morning, and children gave concert in the evening. Our house couldn't hold the people at night. Children's Day is very popular in this part of Colorado.

A. C. PECK.

CALIFORNIA.

CHICO.

We had our Children's Day service, the first of the kind ever held in this church, and it was a very enjoyable affair. It is hoped the day will hereafter be observed every year with increasing interest.

Your work is a noble one, and we hope it will be blessed and prospered. It deserves the attention and co-operation of the entire Church.

F. L. TUTTLE.

WATSONVILLE.

I send you our Children's Day collection, the entire amount, and will say that it is a large sum, all things considered, for this charge to contribute.

C. S. HASWELL.

ROSEVILLE.

Children's Day was celebrated for the first time in this charge. All seemed to enjoy the occasion, and I think will observe the day hereafter.

MR^S. W. A. JOHNS.

TULARE CITY.

Inclosed please find postal order for Children's Day collection. We observed Children's Day, giving the whole day to the children, and using the programme and other helps provided by the Board of Education. We had a pleasant and profitable day.

J. A. McMILLAN.

SANTA ANNA.

Inclosed please find our Children's Day collection. The church was tastefully decorated with flowers, evergreens, and mottoes. The official programme was used, the children were glad, all were pleased and, I trust, enlightened.

J. W. VAN CLEVE.

PASADENA.

Children's Day with us was as ever a very profitable occasion. A sermon in the morning was preached to old and young on the "Possibilities of Childhood," and in the evening the service furnished by the Board of Education was effectively rendered in the presence of a full house. Next Children's Day we hope to be in our large new church, now building.

A. W. BUNKER.

OREGON.

SUMMERVILLE.

We observed Children's Day this year for the first time (although we had an Oregon mist which lasted nearly all day). The services were interesting throughout. Brother W. R. Chattin, our worthy Sunday-school superintendent, at his own expense, sent for programme and supplement for Children's Day. The service was pronounced a grand success.

R. J. JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

TACOMA.

The extreme North-west sends greeting to the grand Children's Day hosts throughout America. The flowers bloom all the year on the shores of Puget Sound, but the rarest in beauty and the sweetest in fragrance were gathered for the second Sunday in June. The usual joys characterized the great day here. Happy children. Full instructive programme used. Greater interest awakened in our educational work, and \$20 to help the cause along. "All hail the Children's Day!"

T. J. MASSEY.

REMARKS.

We beg our friends in all directions to remember that we have only undertaken to print "*Specimen Echoes*." An attempt to portray in language the full beauty and grandeur of the Children's Day celebration of 1886 would require volumes instead of pages.

As has been well said by Dr. Edwards, of the "North-western Christian Advocate," the most important aim of such a publication is to represent the Children's Day movement *as a whole* rather than to give detailed accounts of particular celebrations. Our object, therefore, has been to construct a panorama sweeping around the whole contour and over the whole surface of the United States. To do this we have made use of reports of services held in widely different localities. But under the limit of time in which this had to be done it became necessary to use those which reached us first. When, therefore, our limit of space was reached, many very interesting reports had of necessity to be laid over.

But, as no limit of space is imposed on our report of collections, every charge that sends in its offering to the Children's Fund before Christmas will be fully credited. Thus, not an echo caused in our treasury by the direct and actual payment of a Children's Day collection, however great or small, will fail to be prolonged and repeated wherever round the world our next Annual Report shall go.

We do not envy the mind that can fail to take an interest in such an exhibit as the foregoing, nor the heart that will not throb with higher hopes on learning how grandly and how generally the great modern movement in behalf of Christian education is progressing.

SIGNIFICANCE AND PROMISE OF THE CHILDREN'S DAY MOVEMENT.

If there have been those who have taken low views of the recently established custom of devoting one day each year to special church services in behalf of children, with a view to connecting the work of our Sunday-schools with that of our system of higher Christian education, we think their number will be fewer after the demonstration of 1886.

The editors of our Church papers may be considered as among the best, if not themselves the very best, representatives of the best sentiment of the Church on important subjects. With great unanimity, though in various forms of expression, they have shown their high appreciation of the Children's Day movement in their several localities. If it were possible we would gladly collate all their cheerful and encouraging words on the subject. But, as in the case of the Children's Day reports, we are forced in this matter also to content ourselves with specimen articles and those in a condensed form. Witness the following two written by thoughtful observers in localities a thousand miles apart, namely: by Dr. Edwards, of Chicago, and by Dr. Peirce, of Boston. The former says:

Our unprecedented report of the way in which the churches celebrated Children's Day is attracting wide attention, thanks, and enthusiasm. In fact, the day is the children's first lesson in connectional Methodism. The little feet will stride more triumphantly because they are conscious that they are a part of Christ's beatific battle-line on earth, and their hearts will glow with the thought that they represent the spotless hosts of children who praise God in heaven. New meaning comes into the prescription that we must become as little children if we would enter the kingdom. Babes in Christian homes are brevet church members, and are to be received into full membership at the earliest possible moment. That our Sunday-schools are but one phase of church work, and not distinct from the Church, is now clearer than ever. We recognize this June festival as almost *the* point of power as to church work. If we can educate, inspire, and glorify these saintly darlings, missions, Sunday-schools, church extension, education, and all church emphatics will leap into new life and power.

Our youth re-enforce the children this week in crowding older folk out of the paper. Much space is again given to the younger in Sunday-schools, while older pupils, just graduating from seminary and college, have their representation. After all, these two are but one. All these youngsters are giving collections which will assist deserving Sunday-school children to go through college. We shall not wonder if the sum total of collections, which reached about \$38,000 last year, will go, this year,

to \$42,000, or even \$45,000. This jubilee is raising up a generation of youthful givers who in their day may transform their father's gifts of thousands into millions. Bend the twig, and thus incline the tree of future beneficence.

Plan for next year, and send us reports from 5,000 schools if possible. These we will condense and print in a style that will assure every body that our Sunday-school army is marching on. Pay attention to Christmas and Easter, but be sure to make the second June Sunday our real anniversary among the youngsters.—*North-western Christian Advocate*.

With a similar intent, though in different phrase, Dr. Peirce, at or near the same moment, wrote as follows :

What are we doing for the children of the Church? Strange that such a question should be asked so near Children's Day. It is this large and beautiful fact, however, that has awakened this inquiry. It came to us with impressive force while sitting in the chancel of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, Lynn, at their children's festival last Sabbath. The great house was full of young life. The altar and platform were embowered in flowers, which filled the church with fragrance, fit symbols of the hour. The Sabbath was a perfect day; but the fairest and most striking spectacle of all was the sight of the hundreds of bright little boys and the sweet girl faces. The Sunday-school numbers nearly six hundred, with a large weekly attendance. This is very much larger than the regular attendance upon the regular preaching service, which is more than significant.

What is the Church doing for her children? . . . In our denomination there need be no fear of filling the church with unconverted members. Let them be received and recognized as "on probation"—a real portion of the Church—to be nurtured for both earth and heaven. Let them be instructed as to the foundation of such a relation in the provisions of the Gospel and its responsibilities. When the earliest voluntary faith in a personal Saviour brings the assured fruits of the Spirit into the daily life then let the young disciples be received into full fellowship.—*Zion's Herald*.

We are glad to assure Dr. P. that the question he has asked, so far from being a strange one, is the very question which the Children's Day movement was designed to address to the Church with a new and peculiar emphasis. That it is beginning to accomplish its object on a broad scale is becoming more evident from year to year. But still it remains to be seen whether the appropriate answer to the question will be wrought out in the future action of the Church. That it may be, let every effort be made to focalize all the enthusiasm and power of the Children's Day observance upon early conversion preparatory to the highest cultivation of mind and heart for the service of God.

THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN.

NEW YORK HOUSE.

DEAR BROTHER :

The object of this letter is to call your especial attention to the matter of the Sunday-school library. Of course you are aware of the duty imposed upon you by the Discipline (§ 265) to aid in deciding "as to what books and other publications shall be used in the Sunday-schools." Too often this very important duty is handed over to a committee chosen, it may be, on the spur of the moment, and without considering their fitness for the task imposed. The library is hastily selected by the committee, or the whole matter is left to the judgment of the seller. Traveling over a large district, as presiding elder, I have often been mortified with the character of the reading put into the hands of our young people.

In some cases the library is bought without even the pretext of a selection, an order being given for so many dollars' worth of books, with the understanding that a certain number of volumes shall be delivered. Or, as happened only a few weeks since, a large order was given to a young man, canvasser for the Presbyterian Board of Publication.

The impression prevails to quite an extent that books published by the Book Concern are more expensive than others. Such an opinion is very naturally encouraged by agents of other houses. Too often we receive as established fact the declarations of uninformed or interested persons. I have taken pains to test the truth as to the relative cost of our own books and those of other houses. Here are two books taken from the shelf at random by a stranger who had doubts on this subject. They both sell at \$1 25. That published by Phillips and Hunt is a book of 350 pages, 35 lines to the page, 16 excellent cuts, and five colored maps; the other, published by a house supposed to sell at cheaper rates, has 320 pages, 28 lines to the page, and 6 illustrations. The former book had 3,290 lines, or 90 pages, more of reading than the latter. This is by no means a solitary instance. As to the reading matter, there should be no question but that the Editor of our Sunday-

school books has excellent literary qualifications and would not consent to the publishing of books which weaken the intellect or debase the conscience of our young people.

And now, Dear Brother, allow me to call your attention to the new Catalogue of SUNDAY-SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS of the Methodist Book Concern. Here you have in convenient form a full list of books for libraries, Bible study, and general Sunday-school work ; also description and price of many Sunday-school requisites, published and for sale by the house. Are you expecting to add to the Sunday-school library? Before purchasing, or even looking elsewhere, examine new publications, pages 1-6 of Catalogue. Here are some of them :

Annals of the Round Table. 12mo. 279 pages. Price, \$1.

The book describes the organization of a society of girls for mutual improvement ; their study of Longfellow, Whittier, etc. It is full of suggestions as to how such an organization may be carried on, and the story is told so attractively that the reader is charmed as well as profited.

Under the Apple Trees. 12mo. 320 pages. Price, \$1.

We have here a story neatly told of a young girl left an orphan in early life, who under the pious care of her grandmother conquers native selfishness ; learns to be considerate of others ; kindly treats an uncle supposed to be poor ; is aided by him in securing a home for friendless girls. This is not a goody-goody story, but a healthy presentation of an honest struggle with and victory over self.

"Go, Work." 12mo. 156 pages. Price, 70 cents.

A story more especially for our girls, showing how one of their number made herself useful to her own family, and by a thoughtful life and considerate treatment of others helped them to Jesus. The book is full of suggestions and incentive to every-day usefulness.

Phil Vernon and His School-masters. 12mo. 274 pages. Price, \$1.

The author of this book, Mr. B. A. Brooks, says : " I have endeavored in this story to trace the life of a real, live, average boy, under various influences, good and bad, through experiences in school and out, in the fields and in the town, in his sports and his more serious occupations, with his companions and his teachers, which combine to form his character and develop his innate being, that is, to educate him." And in doing this the author has given our boys a very readable book.

From the Golden Gate to the Golden Horn. 12mo. 380 pages. 59 illustrations. Price, \$1 25.

If you can afford it, you had better buy two or three copies of this book, for the boys will all want it. It is a narrative of travel and adventure, in

which the reader is introduced to Hawaii and its Lake of Fire, Japan, China, Australia, India, Egypt, the Holy Land, and Constantinople. If you buy the book and miss your boy, you will probably find him up in the garret or the hay-mow, oblivious to every thing but the book. It is a good, healthy book, and may be read aloud to the family with profit to all. Another attractive book is

The Seven Wonders of the New World. 12mo. 320 pages. Illustrated. Price, \$1 25.

Do you know a boy whose blood wouldn't be up if you gave him a book with a preface with such promises as these:

"Reader, come with me, and I will show you where the explorer interviewed the grizzly bear in a hollow tree."

"I can show you a place where you can ride your horse through a hollow tree 150 ft. long."

"I can show you the tree into which a man walked a long distance from the roots, and walked out of a knot-hole, without taking off his hat or soiling his coat."

"I can show you where you can catch trout from a lake and swing them into a hot spring and boil them without moving from your place or taking the fish from your hook."

You can understand how the author is able to fulfill such promises when you learn that he writes of Niagara Falls, Yellowstone Park, the Mammoth Cave, Cañons, Giant Trees of California, Natural Bridge, and Yosemite Valley.

The Lost Silver of Briffault. 12mo. 318 pages. Price, \$1 25.

A story beginning with the changed condition of a Southern home by the emancipation of the slaves; the trials resulting therefrom; deeds of self-denial; and the fruits of patience and kindness. A good opportunity for our young people to obtain an inside view of life in the South.

The Story of Young Margaret. 12mo. 322 pages. Price, \$1.

Another book for the girls, showing what one of their number did who was left an orphan. By industry, tact, and self-denial, she was able with the aid of a faithful friend (in the person of a former servant) to care for her brothers and make an honorable record for herself.

The Man with the White Hat. 12mo. 211 pages. Price, 80 cents.

A man with loving heart secures lodgings in one of the lowly streets of a great city, and enters upon his work of endeavoring to reclaim the fallen. In his desire to be unknown save as a friend of the poor and degraded, he declines to give his name, and is known as "the man with the white hat." The book is an account of his mission. The man with the white hat was the child of Christian parents, had entered the legal profession, but after sad losses of family and money decided to become a city missionary in London. Graphic pictures are given of the crime and squalor of that great city, and cheering recitals of the power of grace to save the most depraved.

Up-the-Ladder Club Series. Four volumes, from 304 to 330 pages.
Price, \$1. 25 each.

A number of boys form a club, named after the method of entrance into their place of meeting, a room in a barn. In the first volume the play element is specially prominent. The second treats of school-life. The third, entitled "Yard-Stick and Scissors," finds the members of the club stepping upon the round of active life; while in the fourth, "The Camp at Surf Bluff," we all go "camping out." In this story we may find useful hints about our conduct when passing a vacation from business care.

Elias Power, of Ease-in-Zion. By John M. Bamford. Illustrated.
12mo. 80 cents.

The careful and prayerful reading of this book will promote a revival of religion in pulpit and pew. For adult members of the Sunday-school and congregation.

The Hallam Succession. By Mrs. Amelia E. Barr. 12mo. \$1.

A genuine Methodist story. Some of the characters are English, some American, as the scenes are laid in both continents. It gives a fine description of the founding of the "Lone Star State" of Texas.

Anthe. By Mrs. G. W. Chandler. 12mo. \$1.

An infidel father gives to his daughter the name Anthè, meaning "without God." This book tells of her struggle for the "unknown God," and is a good work for all young people to read.

A Golden Inheritance. By Reese Rockwell. 12mo. \$1 25.

A book for girls. The reader will be delighted with Robin Holmes, her cheerful disposition, her ready acceptance of misfortune, her spiritual insight, her warm, womanly nature, helpfulness, and the golden inheritance at last.

How it all Came Round. By L. T. Meade. Illustrated. 12mo. \$1.

A book for girls; wherein love, purity, and truth are shown to be better than gold, the way of sin hard, the wages of sin terrible and certain, and Divine Providence a reality.

Light Ahead. By Cecilia A. Gardiner. 12mo. \$1 25.

A book to benefit every young lady. The story of an unselfish, Christian spirit. The closing chapters are full of tenderness, and the reader closes the book deeply impressed with the beauty and certain reward of genuine Christ-life.

The above are some of the latest addition to publications of our house. Trusting that you will press upon the people the advantages of patronizing our own Concern, I am

Your fellow-worker,

BOOKWORM.

VISITORS' BOOK.

THE LAST-MAN PLAN

OF

CHURCH FINANCE.

WE offer a plan for collecting moneys for all Church objects, prepared by Rev. J. A. B. WILSON, one of the most successful Presiding Elders in our Church. It has worked well on his and other districts in the Wilmington Conference. Published by PHILLIPS & HUNT, 805 Broadway, New York.

CHURCH RECORD.*

THE LAST-MAN PLAN OF CHURCH FINANCE.

THE PLAN.

1. This is a method of enlisting many in the financial and benevolent work of the Church.
2. It does not multiply machinery, but utilizes that already existing; namely, the official members and the committees.
3. It reaches every member, probationer, Sunday-school scholar, child, and adherent of the Methodist Episcopal Church; giving to each adequate information concerning, and opportunity to contribute to, each Connectional interest intelligently upon its merits, compelling every one to personally face the responsibility of paying or declining to pay.
The plan **WORKED** cannot fail to reach every one. It will not work itself.
4. It enables the pastor to know his people individually in their attitude toward the benevolences, so he can intelligently plan the part of the work, and begin where his predecessor left off.
5. It secures a more certain, intelligent, and thorough supervision.
6. It is educational.
7. It is historical, preserving in the permanent records the contributions of every one from generation to generation.

THE REQUISITES FOR SUCCESS ARE:

1. Devotion to the cause. Persistent effort on the part of the Presiding Elder and the Preacher in Charge. Every thing will stand or fall according to their attitude. All will fail if they be indifferent.
2. Adopt the plan and carry out each feature to the letter.
3. Carefully prepare tracts representing the work, needs, facts, and successes of each interest.
4. Intelligent, active committees who will follow directions.
Let each officer and worker who would reach the best results follow the

INSTRUCTIONS,

1. To Presiding Elder.

- 1.) Have an ideal to be attained on each collection. Let none be served at the expense of others. All in their place, and to the extent of their claim, are of like importance. Plan to reach a certain amount on each claim, and for each a certain average percentage per member and probationer. Send to each pastor at the beginning of the year a statement of the amounts to be raised, with a column of requests where the apportionments are not up to the possibilities. Suggest the combinations most desirable to make and the best time to take the collections.
- 2.) Adopt this plan for your district. Familiarize yourself with its mode and advantages. Introduce it in every charge, and, if possible, secure for it a trial.
Inquire into its workings in every Quarterly Conference. Advocate it.
- 3.) See that each charge is supplied with whole outfits, and that the work of districting and census-taking is done immediately after Conference.
- 4.) Prepare or secure tracts explanatory of the collections of each quarter with suitable envelopes, and either supply or inform the pastor where or how to obtain them.

2. To Pastors.

- 1.) Divide the charge into districts. Have them sufficiently small that the work may be done without overtaxing the visitors.
- 2.) Have the boundaries of the districts clearly defined by streets, roads, or other way-marks.
- 3.) Take, or cause to be taken, a complete census of each district by streets and families, and each person down to the smallest child, with the proper memoranda.
Enter the census as taken in the Church Record, leaving blank spaces after each family for other entries.
Keep each district separate in Record.

* Sample sheet of instructions found in Church Record, yet to be published as part of Last-Man Plan, and companion to visitors' book for permanent record of data therein contained.

4.) Make the entries in visitors' books exactly the same as in the Record. The visitors' or district books will require transcribing yearly; the Church Record but once in three years. If the distributors are faithful the census, once taken, will be kept permanently correct.

5.) Have all the standing committees carefully selected, full, and composed of men and women who can be induced to work. Much of the work can be the better done by ladies.

6.) Seek to have one on each committee who takes special interest in that particular cause. If the regular committee do not furnish a sufficient number, have special ones appointed.

7.) In the present state of conscience it is best to so combine the collections as to have but one each quarter, or at most two, "because of the hardness of their hearts."

So combine them as to secure the most desirable results.

The following appears to be, and experience has proven, the most desirable:

For the First Quarter, take Bible, Tract, Sunday-School Union, Church Relief, or Domestic Missions.

Take all Educational collections on Children's Day.

Second Quarter, take Freedmen's Aid and Church Extension.

Third Quarter, Conference Claimants.

Fourth Quarter, Missions.

There are extra columns to be used as needed, when the number of columns to be taken in this way exceeds four. One of them may be used for the Education collections, which may also be taken with envelopes. Keep the other columns for Ministerial support, one for the subscriptions or apportionment, the others for the amount paid for each Quarter, and for the total paid for the Conference year. This applies to the Record only and not to visitors' book, the Stewards' book taking the place of visitors' book on Ministerial support.

Write at the head of the columns the combined collections to be taken each quarter.

Make your own combination with the advice of the Presiding Elder.

8.) Two weeks before the collection, call together the committees representing the interests then to be served. Instruct them in the plan and your mode of procedure.

Select from the Tract Committee a distributor for each district. Appoint a solicitor for each district, to canvass after the distributors. Also persons to circulate in the public congregations subscription papers, cards, or envelopes, whichever you use. A part of this will be saved and possibly the work be better done if the distributors are supplied with envelopes with which to furnish every person on the list. The envelopes should have printed or written the collections, the number of district, number of envelope, name of the person, and blank for amount, the name of church and charge of course appearing in the proper place.

Put in the hands of each distributor the book for this district, with a sufficient number of envelopes and tracts giving information concerning each collection of the quarter.

It is now the duty of the distributor to follow the directions found in his book, and any that may be given by the pastor, completing his canvass one week before the collection is taken.

9.) When the Sabbath for the collection has come, preach on one of the topics, taking time to fully explain the claims of the others. If envelopes have been distributed in the homes it may be well to preach and give the explanations the Sabbath before they are to be returned, or to take up a part before and the remainder the Sabbath of the collection.

Send through the congregation the persons before appointed to take the collection with subscription papers, cards, or to gather up the envelopes if they are used.

Direct each one to give name and address plainly, and be sure to mark cash subscriptions paid.

Have the combined committee remain at the close, and, giving the visitors' books to the solicitors, assort the names and subscriptions, each book-holder giving the names on his book credit for any subscriptions or payments made.

It is now the work of the book-holders to canvass their respective districts, according to the directions found in the books.

Hold them up to their work, see that it is thoroughly done and completed on time.

The Sabbath after the return of books, read the reports of solicitors. The distributors' reports should be read when the collection is publicly taken.

Fill proper blanks in books.

The extra columns and for periodicals, to be used at discretion of the pastor.

When books are returned, make entries in Record to correspond with register of distributors and solicitors. The contributions of the quarter thus become a part of the history of the church.

For other directions, see visitors' books.

MEMORANDA EXPLAINED.

1st column, first letter of surname.

2d column, *Changes*. Deaths marked D. Removals marked R. Withdrawals marked W.

3d column, Station in life. M. married, S. single. Widows marked W. Widowers marked Wd.

4th column, Relation to church. M. for members, P. probationers, S. S. S. Sunday-school scholar, C. child, A. adherent.

5th column, Numbers. 1.) Families. 2.) Persons, each to be marked by fives, so as to admit of changes in columns; that is, every fifth number only to be written.

INSTRUCTION TO COMMITTEES AND TO BOOK-HOLDERS.

Instruction to Committees.

1. As soon as appointed inform yourself of the duties of the position by reference to the Discipline and by inquiry of your pastor.
2. Read upon and otherwise inform yourself of the merits of the cause you are chosen to serve.
3. Impart information by distributing printed matter and by conversation.
4. Aid in taking collections, and any other work to which you may be assigned.
5. Set a good example by liberal giving according to your ability.
6. Do all your work promptly, thoroughly, and earnestly. Expect to make some sacrifice, and to meet with unpleasant experiences. Do your work as unto the Lord.

Instruction to Book-Holders.

This book will each quarter pass through the hands of two members of the proper committees, the tract distributor, and the solicitor.

Instruction to the Tract Distributer.

1. After receiving the book it is your duty, within the time specified, to visit each family in your district, leaving envelopes and tracts explanatory of the collections for the quarter, and, having fully informed yourself, answer objections, and talk up the cause. Avoid, however, all disputes and heated arguments. Note objections made and report to the pastor.

2. Inquire for and note in memoranda deaths, removals, changes in family and church relations, etc.

Enter new families and names of those who may have come into your district who are in sympathy with our Church.

If they are positively committed to no church, invite them kindly to yours, and immediately notify your pastor of their presence and address.

3. Note each call with a dot in ink in the upper left-hand corner of the space for entering the amount, thus, | • |

4. Make your canvass in the time specified.

Put your tracts in every house, under the doors, or send by mail when entrance cannot be obtained otherwise. Do the same with the envelopes, first writing on each the name of the person.

5. Take good care of your book, make all entries neatly, and return to the pastor at the time appointed.

Instruction to the Solicitor.

1. Upon receipt of book put down to each name the amount subscribed on the public subscription papers, cards, or envelopes, carefully crediting those who paid.

2. Visit every family in your district when there is a name for which no amount is entered and solicit the filling of each blank with some amount, however small, or for the return of their envelopes.

3. Do not unduly press any one, but give to each an opportunity of paying or refusing. It must be a free-will offering. The plan is educational, and perfection of result may not be reached at once.

4. Collect money on subscriptions when made where possible. Otherwise you must make a second or even a third call to obtain payment.

5. Be very careful to mark every paid subscription. Note each visit with a cross beside the dot of the distributor, and payments with "P" in the right-hand upper corner of the space, thus, | • + P |.

6. Enter all unpaid amounts in pencil. Ink over the payments before returning the book.

7. Do your work promptly and return book on time.

BLANKS TO BE FILLED IN BOOKS.

Description of Visiting District, No.

All families, members, probationers, Sunday-school scholars, children, and adherents of the Methodist Episcopal Church in within the following limits:

Distributor's Authorization.

The bearer, whose name is appended, during the time and for the cause below specified, is authorized to distribute tracts, papers, and envelopes. To obtain information concerning periodicals taken, deaths, removals, changes in family or church relation, and to call upon new families within Visiting

District No., of Charge, Methodist Episcopal Church,
..... District, Conference.
....., Distributer. Cause.

From, to, 18, Pastor.

....., Distributer. Cause.

From, to, 18, Pastor.

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 From _____, to _____, 18 _____, Pastor.
 , Distributer. Cause.
 From _____, to _____, 18 _____, Pastor.

Blank Form for Distributer's Report.*

1. Cause.....	6. No. families visited.....
2. No. of families on book.....	7. " changes by death.....
3. " persons ".....	8. " removals.....
4. " families found.....	9. " new families.....
5. " persons ".....	10. " persons in them.....

11. No. families uncommitted and needing immediate pastoral attention.....
 Address

Respectfully submitted,

....., 18....., Distributer.

Solicitor's Authorization.

The bearer, whose name is appended during the time and for the cause below specified, is authorized to solicit and collect for the same in Visiting District, No., Charge, Methodist Episcopal Church, District, Conference.

....., Solicitor. Cause.
 From _____, to _____, 18 _____, Pastor.
 , Solicitor. Cause.
 From _____, to _____, 18 _____, Pastor.
 , Solicitor. Cause.
 From _____, to _____, 18 _____, Pastor.
 , Solicitor. Cause.
 From _____, to _____, 18 _____, Pastor.

* Do not write on this blank, but copy it.

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Blank Form for Solicitor's Report.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Cause..... | 6. No. families visited..... |
| 2. No. of families on book..... | 7. " " contributing..... |
| 3. " persons " | 8. " persons contributing..... |
| 4. " families found..... | 9. " families in which no one contributed |
| 5. " persons " | 10. " persons not contributing..... |
| 11. No. on book requiring immediate pastoral attention..... | |

Respectfully submitted,

....., 18...., Solicitor.

* Do not write on this blank, but copy it.

[illegible]

BOOKS ON MISSIONS.

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